"Congress shall make no law..."

The Valley Patriot

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End Of An Era

After town officials illegally took property over a fake sewer betterment, a local landmark is set to be torn down in Salisbury.

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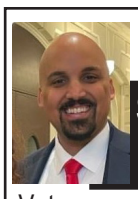

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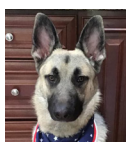

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Valley Patriot of the Month

Andover's Sub Skipper, George Street - Run Silent, Run Deep

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Most Americans have heard of World War I Medal of Honor recipients, such as the US Army's Alvin York from Pall Mall, Tennessee, and Eddie Rickenbacker, a US Army Signal Corps Ace, who was a race car driver before the war. But many of us in the Merrimack Valley are not aware that some of these recipients live or lived among us. Rickenbacker, who died in 1973, has family currently living in Andover, Massachusetts. Many Americans have also seen the Hollywood film, "Run Silent, Run Deep." This month's article is about the actual submarine and her skipper, George Street.

Andover's Captain George Street III was the last of seven World War II submarine commanders to receive the Medal of Honor, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command. He joined the US Navy in 1931 and was appointed to the US Naval Academy in 1933. After graduating from the academy, he served on the USS Concord CL-10 and the USS Arkansas BB-33. Volunteering for Submarine duty, Captain Street served three years with the USS Gar (SS-206), from her commissioning on April 14, 1941, until February 27, 1944. He served first as Gunnery and Torpedo Officer, then as First Lieutenant and Torpedo Data Computer Operator and finally as Executive Officer and Navigator. While on the USS Gar, he completed nine war patrols. He was awarded two Silver Stars for his combat service on the USS Gar.

On July 6, 1944, as a Lieutenant Commander, Street reported to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to commission and put to sea, the USS Tirante (SS-420), his first command. The USS Tirante's first war patrol, beginning in March 1945, cost Japan at least six ships. Most notably, during a daring night penetration of the harbor of Quelpart Island (also known as Cheju Do), southwest of the Korean peninsula, on April 14, 1945, Street's submarine sank the Japanese transport Juzan Maru and anti-submarine escorts Nomi and

Kaibokan # 31. For his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" on this occasion, LCDR Street was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Several weeks after the Quelpart Island incident, George Street led the USS Tirante on another patrol that earned him the Navy Cross. On June 11, 1945, the sub sank several hostile vessels before moving through treacherous shallow waters into the heart of Nagasaki Harbor, where it sank another enemy ship. During these actions, no man on his ship was killed or wounded,

Captain Street's executive officer on the USS Tirante was Capt. Edward L. Beach, also a recipient of the Navy Cross, Beach wrote the best-selling

HERO: PAGE 26

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Mayor Perry Ignored Conditions On Old Ferry Road In Methuen

For more than four years Methuen Mayor Neil Perry has promised the businesses on Old Ferry Road that fixing the substandard road conditions was "in the works" and that the hazards on that road in the industrial park would be taken care of "right away."

Last week, business owner David Consoli of Pleasant Valley Landscaping had to address the Methuen City Council to alert them to the fact that just last week the city finally started the process of fixing the problem.

Consoli then appeared on the Paying Attention! Podcast stating this was unacceptable: "The condition of the road is extremely dangerous. The city has been blowing smoke up my butt for four years."

"You cannot get two vehicles side by side down that road. There was almost a head on collision yesterday, where I witnessed two cars going down the street and a triaxle coming up [the other way] and the cars almost got run off the road."

"I have it on video."

"Every single day when you drive up to my building and an oncoming vehicle comes, someone has to back down the road to let the oncoming vehicle pass. It's 15 feet wide. The normal MA-DOT sized road for an industrial park is 40 feet. At its widest point, Old Ferry Road is 32 feet. So, the road is substandard."

"Where I have a problem is with this administration," Consoli continued.

"We had a meeting at the industrial park August 17, 2023. The department heads were all there, and promised us at that meeting that the engineering to fix that road was in the works, and funding was in place already. My (public records) request does not show that."

"Yesterday at a meeting, the deputy DPW director gets up and says 'oh, we put out an RFP last week for this. Are you kidding me? Last week?"

"I find all of this insulting," he said.

METHUEN: PAGE 23

A New Era for Healthcare in the Merrimack Valley

Senator Pavel Payano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

As the State Senator representing the 1st Essex District, I have seen firsthand the challenges our community's healthcare system has faced in recent months. When Steward Health Care, a for-profit healthcare operator, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in May, the future of several hospitals in Massachusetts, including Holy Family Hospitals in Haverhill and Methuen, were jeopardized. For many in our community, this wasn't just a corporate setback, it was a potential healthcare crisis that threatened to leave thousands of residents without access to essential medical services.

Steward's financial mismanagement, which included running up substantial debts and failing to pay creditors, put the survival of these critical healthcare facilities at risk. The company's decision to offload its Massachusetts hospitals sparked widespread concern, particularly as the prospect of closures loomed. The loss of these hospitals would have been devastating, particularly for vulnerable populations who rely on local, accessible care.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, Governor Maura Healey's administration intervened. The state provided essential financial support, including a $42 million package to keep the hospitals operational through the end of September. This support was critical in preventing an immediate shutdown and allowed time to find a sustainable solution. This past Thursday, Lawrence General Hospital officially filed the necessary documents to purchase and operate both Holy Family Haverhill and Methuen. This acquisition represents a lifeline for our community and a critical step toward realizing our vision of a robust and accessible regional healthcare system in the Merrimack Valley.

Lawrence General has a long history of providing culturally competent care that meets the diverse needs of our community. By bringing Holy Family Hospitals into their network, Lawrence General ensures that these vital institutions will continue to serve our residents with the same dedication and excellence they are known for. This acquisition also relieves the hospitals from the burdensome lease agreements that had contributed to their financial difficulties under Steward's ownership. Thank you to Lawrence General and their CEO Dr. Abha Agrawl for their leadership and commitment to accessible healthcare in my district.

Over the past year, my colleagues in the Haverhill and Methuen delegation and I have been deeply involved in advocating for the future of these hospitals. We held numerous meetings with key stakeholders, including the Massachusetts Nurses Association, SEIU 1199, the dedicated doctors at Holy Family, and the staff who worked tirelessly to keep these facilities running. Their insights and concerns were invaluable in shaping our approach to finding a solution to preserve uninterrupted access to care in our gateway communities.

While Steward Health Care's actions have made it clear that they should never be allowed to operate hospitals in Massachusetts, it's important to acknowledge the incredible resilience of our frontline workers. Despite the uncertainty and challenges posed by the bankruptcy, these healthcare professionals continued to deliver high-quality care to our residents. Their dedication has been nothing short of heroic, and their commitment to their patients is a testament to the strength of our community.

Looking ahead, there is still work to be done. But the successful acquisition of Holy Family Hospitals by Lawrence General marks the beginning of a new chapter for healthcare in the Merrimack Valley.

It's a significant achievement that underscores the power of collaboration and the importance of community-focused leadership. Together, we will continue to build a stronger, healthier future for all. ◊

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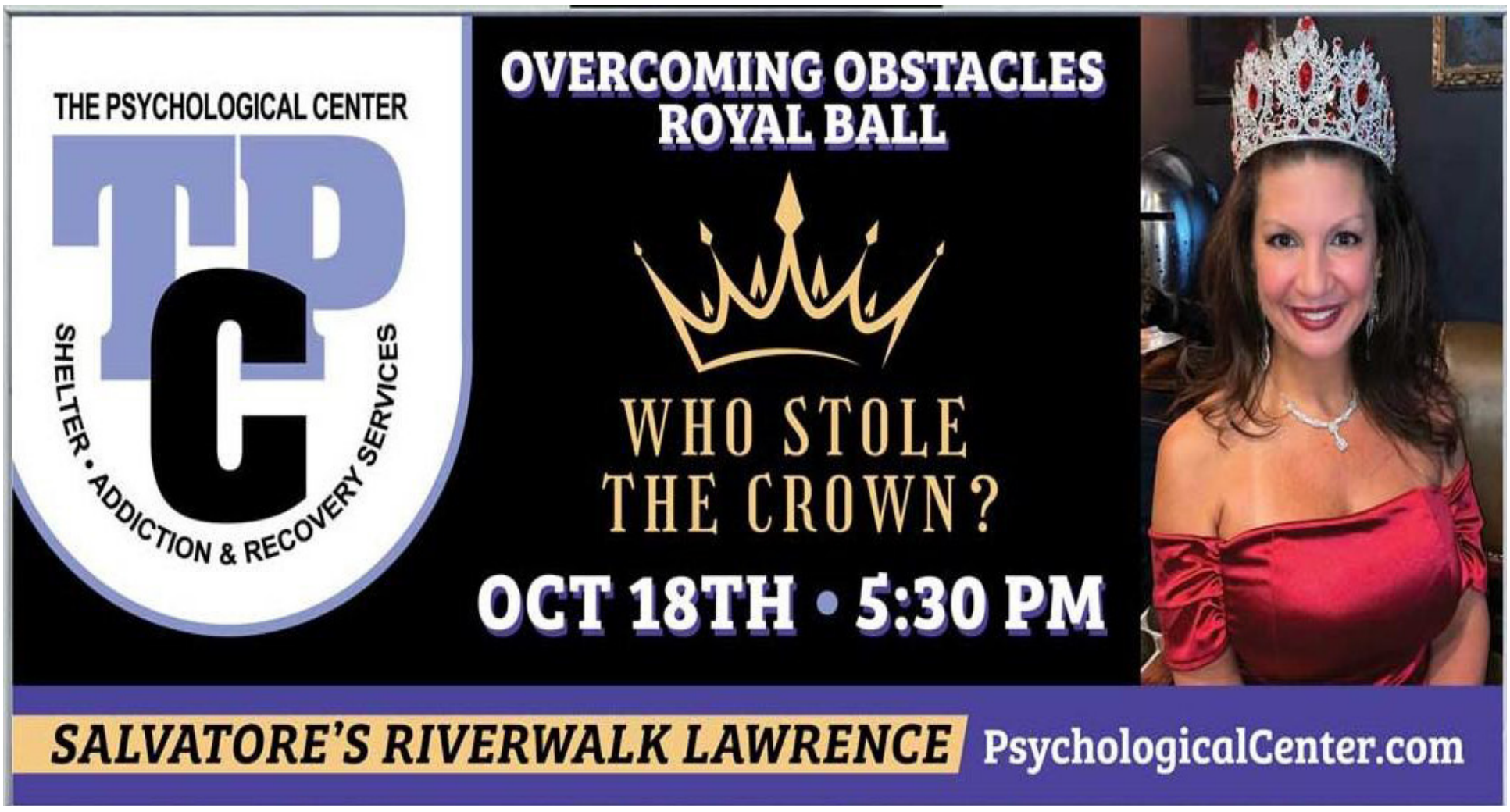


Lawrence Continues Summer/Fall Paving and Signage Plan

This week, the City of Lawrence is making progress on its ambitious paving and signage plan, an initiative aimed at renewing and improving the condition of local streets. The project, which began in April and will continue through November, is designed to address both pavement wear and road safety concerns.

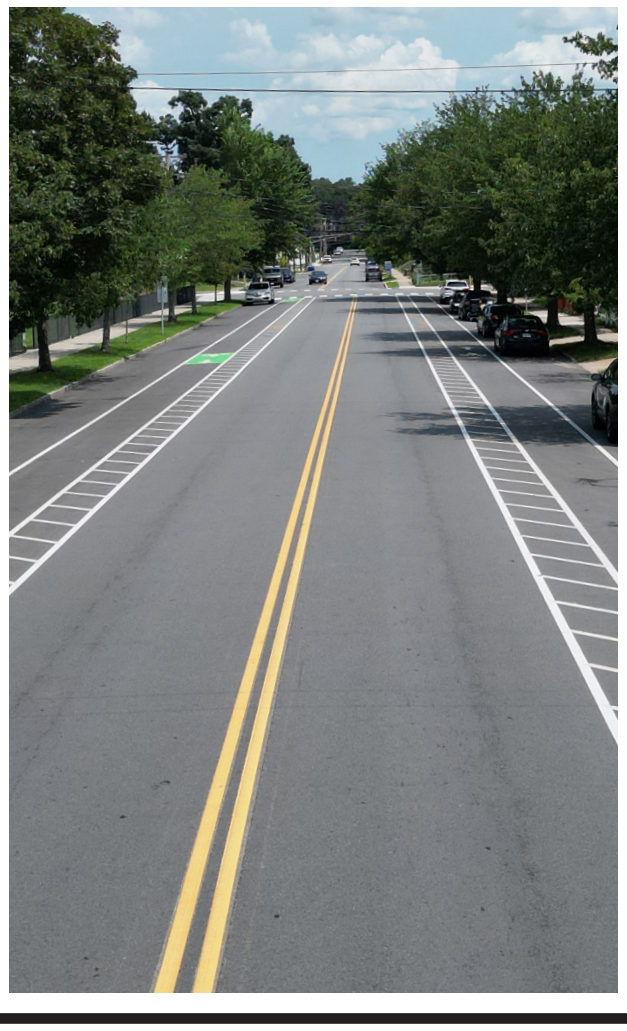
Mayor Brian DePeña announced that additional resources will be allocated to the paving plan, and efforts to modernize the city's infrastructure will be expanded to ensure that roads are safer and more accessible for all residents. Along with repaving, improvements to signage will be implemented, including the installation of new traffic signs and updates to existing ones, with the goal of optimizing traffic flow and ensuring the safety of both pedestrians and drivers.

City Public Works Director Jorge Jaime noted that while these projects may cause some temporary inconvenience, they are necessary to ensure the long-term quality and safety of the roads. Residents can expect traffic closures and detours in certain areas throughout the duration of the project.

In the coming days, the city will publish a detailed list of streets scheduled for work, allowing residents to plan their travel and minimize disruptions to their daily routines.

Mr. Jorge Jaime,
Public Works Director

The Department of Public Works is available to address any questions residents may have about these projects. The city administration appreciates the community's patience and cooperation during this period of improvements.



City of Lawrence
Brian A. DePeña, Mayor

Department of Public Works (DPW)
Mr. Jorge Jaime, Public Works Director

Media Silence is Deafening on Reporter Put in Jail for Trying to Expose Corrupt Lawrence Official

You Have to Wonder - What Country Are We Living In?

Lenny Mirra
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

SUSPENDING DISBELIEF

What if I told you that recently, a local reporter uncovered a plot by a government official to steer much needed federal funds for the homeless, to a non-profit that she owns and operates and whose husband is the president?

And what if I told you that this public employee took out a harassment order against the reporter to prevent him from publishing that story, claiming his story was "harassing" and that she was in fear for her life?

Would you believe me if I said that after getting a court order - and before a hearing could be held - she then went to police claiming the reporter violated the order by attending a party at a local church, claiming she owned the church?

You probably wouldn't believe me if I told you that she didn't own the church, but police nevertheless showed up at the reporter's home and threw him in jail, holding him without bail for two days without ever checking to see if her claims were true.

It would be even harder to believe after all that, the story of his arrest was plastered all over the front page of a rival newspaper, branding him a wife beater as if he had stalked an ex-lover.

It's hard to imagine but it's actually true. The cops in this case didn't do their jobs and the local (rival) newspaper smeared this guy with glee, willfully taking the word of a government official with no investigation at all.

WHAT COUNTRY IS THIS?

Now, you are probably thinking' 'OK maybe this happened, but it probably happened in some far-away, communist country on a different continent, or maybe it happened a hundred years ago.

But it wasn't. It happened right here, in Massachusetts last April and the reporter I am talking about is Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan.

Thankfully, after sitting in jail for two days and having his reputation smeared by fellow "journalists" at the Eagle Tribune, he finally got his day in court, where a jury quickly saw through the shenanigans of Kelly Birchall Frazier.

WHERE IS THE MEDIA?

In case you missed last month's Valley Patriot, Kelly Frazier is Lawrence's Homeless Coordinator and also owns International Veterans Care Services (IVCS) where she is CEO, and her husband is the president.

Duggan was trying to expose Frazier, after she was caught trying to steer $200,000 in federal ARPA money, (as well as another $52,000 in state aid), to IVCS despite the obvious conflicts in interest.

This is the kind of corruption that we've sadly grown accustomed to in this state, and it's the kind of thing that reporters should be given awards for perusing and uncovering.

Yet, Duggan found himself in jail with no support for trying to publish his story and still has a bogus court order hanging over his head.

His case is slated to go before the New Hampshire Supreme Court in the coming months, but you won't find that story in any other news outlet.

Which begs a lot of questions.

For me the key question here is: where is the rest of our news media on this?

Do they really not care about a free press? If Duggan's court case fails, reporters everywhere could face jail for trying to expose corrupt public officials, who can simply get a stalking order to nullify their first amendment right to investigate them.

How is it that The Boston Globe, the Herald, the Lowell Sun, and The Eagle Tribune are not putting this entire story on their front pages and helping Duggan expose the Fraziers?

It used to be standard for people in the news media to rally around one of their own in situations like this, but not anymore. That should shock and anger the conscience of everyone in this country.

Reporters having the freedom to expose government officials is the very reason our founding fathers made free speech and a free press the very first right protected under our Constitution.

It's the most potent protection against tyranny and oppression by government officials!

If Duggan fails in his efforts, all of our rights are in jeopardy!

SPEAKING OF LAWRENCE

Come to think of it, where are members of the Lawrence City Council? Not one of them have spoken out against all of this corruption on their watch.

Where are the Lawrence State Reps. who fight for money to come to Lawrence, only to have Kelly Frazier try to steer it to herself?

And why hasn't the mayor done anything about this woman? She works for him! Is it because she campaigned for him in the last election? Or is it because he initially signed off on the $200,000 federal expenditure?

If you want to know why there's so much corruption in this state, it's because corrupt officials never pay a price for their misdeeds. Everyone's going along to get along. They all talk a good game on public corruption but when it actually happens, they all stick their heads in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist. And remember, if they can do this to Duggan and get away with it what chance do YOU have if a corrupt government official comes after you?

Who will speak for you?

CERTAINLY NOT LAW ENFORCEMENT

This leads to more questions, like where is District Attorney Paul Tucker? He had no problem prosecuting Duggan for going to church, but has no interest in prosecuting Kelly Frazier for lying to police and perjuring herself to stop Duggan from reporting on her?

Where is our A.G.? And since Frazier was trying to get federal money, where is the U.S. Attorney or Inspector General?

Why is it left to one local journalist to stand up to these people and bear the brunt of all this with no support at all from any of them?

In a city like Lawrence - plagued by both homelessness and corruption - why is there not one investigation into her attempt to steer a huge amount of federal grant money to a dubious organization that the A.G.'s office admitted has not filed the required financial disclosures on their donations and expenses?

Especially when you take into account that Kelly Birchall Frazier and her husband Donald Frazier were arrested for staging car accidents for the insurance money. Donald was convicted of insurance fraud and served time in prison. Kelly - who admits her involvement - was not prosecuted because she cooperated with police.

This is who Lawrence hires to help the homeless? No wonder the homeless problem in Lawrence never gets better.

WHO REALLY CARES FOR THE HOMELESS?

Finally, this story has shed light on something else we should all be concerned about. When I was a State Rep., I saw an incredible amount of money spent dedicated to helping the needy of this state. Like my colleagues, I was under the impression that the money we allocated was making a difference for the homeless here in the commonwealth.

So, I was especially shocked when Tom Duggan took me to see homeless encampments on the banks of the Merrimack River last year, where dozens of American citizens are living in nothing more than tents in the dead of winter, with no food or water.

I had the same reaction when I accompanied State Rep. Jim Kelcourse to deliver food and clothing to the homeless living near the train station in Newburyport. This is to say nothing about the disaster at Mass and Cass in Boston.

To see such a huge number of homeless people in a state that spends billions pretending to help the poor, should shock and anger every voter and taxpayer.

Apparently, none of the billions of dollars we spend on the homeless every year make it to those individuals, and now with Duggan's story of Kelly Frazier coming to light, we are starting to understand why.

As a side note, I can tell you firsthand that it's The Movement Family "TMF" with the help of Tom Duggan who are on the banks of the Merrimack River every day feeding the homeless providing water, blankets, and needed amenities: not the "homeless coordinator" for the City of Lawrence.

Apparently, she's too busy sitting in her office trying to find ways to shift public dollars to her own non-profit. Yet Tom Duggan is the guy who sat in jail for two days and faced prison time, not her.

This is the stuff of banana republics.

Shame on the "news" media and all the government officials for sitting silent as a journalist is targeted for trying to do his job, leaving the homeless in this state to go without any help at all. Will anybody stand up and say enough is enough?

Lenny Mirra is a former State Representative from West Newbury and now lives in Georgetown. He has a column on Substack. Email: lenny.mirra@gmail.com ◊

Disturbing, Unlawful Practices Uncovered at the MA Convention Center Authority

IN YOUR CORNER with AUDITOR DIZOGLIO

Dear Valley Patriot readers,

Recently, my office released a performance audit report of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA), reviewing the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022. We also looked back through January 1, 2018, to review certain issues raised to our office regarding MCCA's procurement and employee complaint practices.

A public authority of the Commonwealth, the MCCA is responsible for providing event space and business to tourists, residents, and its employees. It operates high-profile venues you may be familiar with - the Hynes Convention Center, Boston Common Parking Garage, Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Lawn on D, its parking facility (Lot on D), and MassMutual Center in Springfield.

Our audit uncovered some disturbing and unlawful practices. We found that, under prior leadership, the MCCA cherry-picked when it was convenient or not convenient to follow state law and internal policies around public records, procurement and settlement agreements. The MCCA was unable to prove that it obtained sufficient quotes for several purchases, did not follow procurement policies for a media contract worth more than $100,000 and executed vendor contracts without board approval.

Deeply troubling and unacceptable is the fact that prior leadership violated the law in executing a $1.2 million non-disclosure agreement, concealing allegations of racial discrimination.

The state's Supplier Diversity Office provides benchmarks for agencies that participate in the Supplier Diversity Program. Agencies are expected to meet or exceed spending as follows: 8% for minority-owned businesses, 14% for women-owned businesses, and 3% for veteran-owned businesses. MCCA missed the benchmark by a significant dollar figure and failed to effectively promote diversity in their contract procurement.

When holding large events, such as the ones in MCCA-owned and operated spaces, safety should be a top priority. Our audit found serious gaps in the safety procedures for events that the MCCA coordinates. Many event clients were not provided with a pre-event survey, which meant the MCCA did not collect important information relevant to the safety plan needed for events.

New leadership has since been brought in to manage the MCCA since our audit first began, with most individuals joining the organization outside of our audit period. Our office is grateful to MCCA Interim Executive Director Gloria Cordes Larson for working alongside our audit team to immediately begin addressing these and other very concerning issues identified in the report. We will continue to work to shine a light on areas for improvement through our post-audit review, which will be conducted in roughly six months.

If you have any questions about the audit report we just released, or any other audit report produced by my office, please always feel free to reach out at auditor@massauditor.gov.

Yours in service, Diana ◊

How the Town of Salisbury Hid Their Corruption Under the Cover of Immunity

By: Gracemarie and Joyce Tomaselli

Do you remember the Mangia A Café Restaurant at Salisbury Beach? So many have asked us "what happened to Mangia?"

It was out dream was to open a special Italian restaurant one day and that dream became a reality.

We bought a "turnkey" restaurant on municipal sewer on March 7, 1991. Town officials delayed our opening for 18 months mandating we gut the kitchen, install a 3-hour steel fire rated door, tear down our dining room wall to install a fourth egress in a 28-seat dining room and so many more unnecessary mandates. We had to comply to get our licenses.

Our exciting opening day was September 12, 1992

SALISBURY: PAGE 26

Appetite for Affordable Housing

Philippe Thibault
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT CONTRIBUTOR

I was listening to a country song the other day. First, don't judge me on that criteria. I grew up listening to a wide gamut of musical genres and studied most of them while taking guitar lessons with classical guitar being my favorite.

Back to the initial premise of a country music song, Champagne Taste on a Beer Budget. How appropriate and relevant to many aspects of our modern life. Our housing crisis in proportion is suffering from the effects of our wanting outweighing our needing.

Certainly, there is a need for housing that satisfies the needs of a community: single occupant, couples without children, family, multi-family, empty nester, seniors, and elderly.

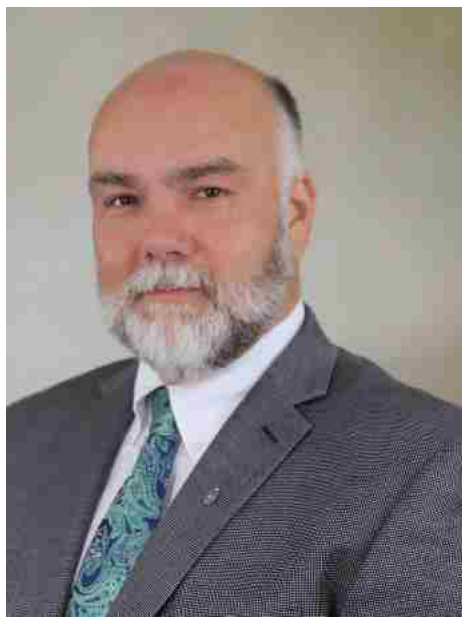
A community's obligation, through zoning bylaws, is to make places for these residential classifications to live in harmony with each other and with other commercial activities. Oddly enough, zoning is more of a modern American idea, to segregate and isolate one use from the other, but let's leave that for another future discussion.

Another obligation since the 1960s in Massachusetts has been affordable housing. Affordable designated as housing that is affordable to individuals earning eighty percent of the median income for a particular region. This differs from low-income housing where a maximum percentage of income can be dedicated to housing and the associated cost, such as utilities. Affordable housing is a noble and necessary component for housing stocks in Massachusetts. The metric of this legislation is to provide affordable housing at a specific level, ten percent of the municipality's housing stock.

The affordable component to be counted must also have a subsidized component from the state. This may not always come in the form of money. It can also be achieved through an endorsement from the community of another state agency. Times certainly change and opponents of the law are correct that there needs to be a review and update of this legislation. Logistically if affordability is targeted at eighty percent of the median income, should the housing stock be targeted in a similar fashion. Although that would translate to forty percent of the housing stock would need to be "affordable."

Much of the affordable housing attention is fixated on what is desired by those seeking housing. These days it seems fixated on what we want rather that what we need. I've asked a developer in Dracut, Massachusetts, "why don't you build starter homes anymore?" The starter home of a Levittown model development was a standard Cape or simple Ranch home. These structures were approximately nine hundred square feet, two or three bedrooms, kitchen, bath, and living room. Families of four and five would occupy similar homes through the Sixties and Seventies. Collinsville in Dracut still has a development from the Fifties that remains very close to the original construction with these homes having modest additions. By contrast the homes of today's development start with areas over two thousand square feet and closer to three thousand. And these are still considered starter homes? Communities complained about McMansions in the Nineties. We think that we are not supersizing our homes, but rather than decreasing the portions, we increased the platter. These larger homes are no longer permitted on smaller lots because of floor area ratios that require open yard to floor square footage. This does nothing to help affordability. The cost of home ownership does not end with the mortgage payment. There are still taxes, utilities and maintenance costs that are derived by the size of the home.

Affordability most simply comes from the size of the whole. Dracut's zoning currently requires forty thousand square feet for a single-family residence. This is often referred as a builder's acre. Cost of land for that acre being on the low side two hundred thousand dollars; economics make it nearly infeasible to build a small cape home and turn a profit. Zoning must permit right sized housing on right sized housing lots. Dracut rejected that opportunity recently during a review of the Zoning Bylaws. When a proposal to create reasonable sized lots in areas of existing



CHARITIES: PAGE 23

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Recapping August in The Valley

Estela Reyes
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The end of August signals that the seasons are about to change. Before the cool air blows in, I want to reminisce on the hot and busy August we had here in the 4th Essex District.

One major piece of news from this month is the new ownership of the Holy Family Hospitals in both Methuen and Haverhill. The fate of these hospitals has been an ongoing stressor for many in the community. Steward Healthcare's careless ownership has thrown hospitals across Massachusetts and the globe into a frantic search for a new owner. I am pleased to announce that Holy Family Methuen and Haverhill were taken up by Lawrence General Hospital. In the last days of August, their bid on the hospitals was finalized by the State.

A new chapter is just beginning for these local health centers. I have worked for many hours and had long conversations with Representative Frank Moran, Lawrence General CEO Abha Agrawal and their team, and Governor Healey and her team in order to secure this acquisition of Holy Family by LGH. It was several months ago that local and federal elected officials toured the Holy Family locations and saw firsthand the consequences of careless ownership. I am more than confident in the LGH team in their ability to see these locations thrive, for their healthcare workers and for their patients. It is unfortunate that not all hospitals across the state have been able to be successfully transferred to a new owner. I, alongside the Merrimack Valley delegation, take great pride in this purchase agreement and will continue to see that the needs of our constituents are met.

With the Formal Session being wrapped up, it has allowed the delegation more time to be in our community. Local offices recently toured three contaminated sites in Lawrence. Thanks to the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Grant program, and Congresswoman Lori Trahan's advocacy for our community, Lawrence has been allocated $1.5 million to clean up these sites. Over the next couple of years, we will see these sites redeveloped into safe community parks and clean spaces.

The three sites which will get the redevelopment are: Bennington Triangle, Florence Street Garage, and Anchor Automotive Yard. Bennington Triangle was formerly a gas station, and has been inspected for the exposure to gas in the soil. Florence Street Garage is often and

illegally used as a dump site. Anchor Automotive Yard has hazards which can pose a risk to those who pass through. It is long overdue that we clean these spaces up. Future generations will know a city with clean and welcoming green spaces.

Lastly in August, I would like to acknowledge National Night Out. National Night Out is a summer event of community building through games, food and music. Thank you to all of the neighborhoods which came together to celebrate.

I wish you all a happy beginning to a new school year, and a cooler month to come. As always, thank you for your time reading this month's entry. Please reach out to me at estela.reyes@mahouse.gov or my staff laura.byman@mahouse.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns. ◊

Grateful for the Opportunity to Serve Together

Francisco Paulino
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 16TH ESSEX

Dear Neighbors, Family, Friends, and Constituents,

It is with deep gratitude and renewed energy that I step into another term representing the 16th Essex District. This moment isn't just about a re-election victory—it's about Us. It's about the power of our community coming together to shape a brighter future. The road ahead is full of possibilities, and by standing united, we can ensure that every family in Lawrence and Methuen thrives. Together, we will build a future where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, and I'm eager to continue this important work with all of you.

First and foremost, I want to thank my family—Ruby, Jackson, and Madison. You've been my rock throughout this journey, and I couldn't have done this without your love and support. To Senator Pavel Payano, thank you for believing in me from the very beginning. And to State Representative Ryan Hamilton and Estela Reyes, thank you for always having my back. Your support has been invaluable.

To my incredible campaign team—Jessica, Milagros, Gaby, Yaira, Alex, Juan, Agenor, Ana Kinka, Maria, Yaira, Raymond, Ivelis, and Stephany—and to every volunteer who knocked on doors, made calls, put up signs, and showed up every single day, this win is as much yours as it is mine. Your dedication, passion, and resilience inspire me. You are the reason we succeeded, and I'm proud to have stood beside each and every one of you.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our local leaders who have stood with me: Lawrence City Council Vice President Stephany Infante, Councilors Vivian Marmol, Gregory DeRosario, Jeovanny Rodriguez, Methuen City Councilors DJ Beauregard, Ron Marsan, and Methuen Mayor Neil Perry. Your leadership has been essential, and I look forward to continuing our work together for the benefit of our communities.

This victory isn't just for those who supported me—it's for every single person in Lawrence and Methuen. It's for the working families striving to make ends meet, the small business owners fighting to stay afloat, and the young people dreaming of a brighter future. Whether you voted for me or not, I want you to know that your voice matters. I represent all of you, and I am committed to serving every corner of our district.

Now, as we look ahead, we know the road won't always be easy, but it is full of possibility. We will focus on expanding economic opportunities that lift everyone, establishing the Apprenticeship Hub to create real pathways to good jobs for our youth, and improving the quality of healthcare at Lawrence General and the two Holy Family locations that we worked so hard to support. These are more than just initiatives—they are stepping stones to a future where every member of our community can thrive.

But none of this can happen without you. I need your continued support, your ideas, and your energy. Together, we can create a district where everyone has a seat at the table, where every voice is heard, and where every person has access to the resources they need to succeed. This isn't something I can do alone—it will take all of us coming together with purpose, determination, and hope.

As we embrace this new chapter, let's move forward with optimism, strength, and a shared commitment to building a community that works for everyone. Believe when I say: "Our future is bright, and together, we can."

Francisco E. Paulino
State Representative, 16th Essex District ◊

The Searles Estate and Former Steward Hospitals Made Great Strides for Local Communities

Ryan Hamilton
STATE REP., HAVERHILL/METHUEN

It is a great privilege to provide an update on the monumental project of the Searles Estate in Methuen. In July, Mayor Perry announced that the City of Methuen agreed to acquire the estate, subject to city council approval. Finally, on September 4th, the Methuen City Council voted to favor these efforts. Thankfully, this vote ensures the Methuen preservation of the historic land and buildings. The city will oversee the security and maintenance during the re-use process. I'm excited to see the City of Methuen oversee this estate and keep the rich history and flourishing property intact.

Thank you to Mayor Perry, the Methuen City Council, and Economic and Community Development Director Jack Wilson for making this happen. Another thank you goes out to all the residents who support Methuen's history. Your passionate advocacy for acquiring this property made the difference in convincing our government officials to invest.

For those who do not know, The Edward Searles Estate, also known as Searles Castle, is a historic estate in Methuen, MA. The buildings and land at 209 Lawrence Street are the 19th-century residence and estate of the late Edward F. Searles, a prominent member of one of Methuen's leading philanthropic families from America's early industrial era. The land acquired stretches across 19 acres, including twelve remarkable buildings and structures and an extensive renowned art collection.

Another win for the Merrimack Valley includes the Lawrence General Hospital acquisition of the Methuen and Haverhill Holy Family Hospitals. The Steward Health crisis has been stressful and frustrating for so many across the Commonwealth; it is a shame how this company has handled its dealings. The resilience and passion for the care shown by health professionals in these circumstances genuinely tell of the commitment of those here in the Merrimack Valley.

Official delegation statements on the matter continue below:

We are happy to report that Lawrence General Hospital will acquire both Holy Family Hospitals in Haverhill and Methuen. This is a significant win, ensuring that our residents will continue to have access to the high-quality healthcare services they deserve. We can all be proud of Lawrence General Hospital's dedication to our region and its commitment to improving care.

We thank Governor Healey and her administration for their tireless work navigating this challenging situation. We also express our gratitude to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Kate Walsh, Department of Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, the entire team at HHS and DPH, and the

Chairs of the Committee on Healthcare Financing, Senator Cindy Friedman, and Representative John Lawn for their leadership and swift action in safeguarding our healthcare system. Additionally, we thank our region's federal, state, and local elected officials for their support and collaboration throughout this process. The steadfast efforts of all involved have been instrumental in achieving this outcome.

We particularly want to acknowledge and thank the healthcare workers who have continued to provide compassionate and unwavering care in our communities throughout this ordeal. Their resilience and dedication have been nothing short of heroic, ensuring patient care remains a priority despite uncertainty. Our community owes them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for healthcare in our district, one that promises to strengthen our community and protect the well-being of thousands of residents and healthcare workers. We are proud to stand with all who have made this moment possible, and we look forward to the continued partnership as we work further to enhance the quality of care in our region.

The residents of these two cities and surrounding communities deserve access to the same high-quality healthcare that all of Massachusetts enjoys.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any ideas, concerns, or questions at ryan.hamilton@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2090. ◊

Data-Driven Commercial Leadership

Tomi Michele
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

"In the real world outside economic theory, every business is successful exactly to the extent that it does something others cannot." —Peter Thiel, Zero to One

A reasonable business leader who wants to make a profit and lead a sustainable enterprise in this day and age must have their decision-making influenced by data. This will allow them to remain fluent in terms of changing factors that may affect the integrity and sustainability of the enterprise, whether those factors are related to the venture's financial solidity or the impact of external economic trends. It will not only enable assertive governance in the short term but also prompt preparation for future projections. There is even a claim popularized by the founders of MentorBox, Tai Lopez and Alex Mehr, that the average CEO reads 60 books per year. This certainly denotes the importance for leaders, executives, and directors in the private sector to be informed. Thus, hunches and assumptions may not be the best strategy for a business model that seeks to make money and deliver value to a customer base.

When it comes to innovating, significant thinking and figuring are required to develop a business model that works. Whether it is a subscription-based model in which customers pay a recurring fee for access to a service, such as Netflix. Or freemium model in which the basic form of an offering is free, with more top-tier features available for a fee, such as LinkedIn. Finding the right balance to attract income for the venture requires a "healthy" dose of paranoia—understanding the market and its trends and paying attention to consumer behavior.

Even if a firm has dominance in a market share in a region, things can change in a matter of seconds. A new competitor may enter the game anytime with a better product, service, or system. An economic downturn may cause consumers to become cautious in their spending, leading to a decline in sales. A force majeure, such as a pandemic, could cause a governor to issue a shelter-in-place executive order, diminishing public circulation and, suddenly, no one enters a brick-and-mortar establishment. Something as simple as technological advancement can shift the wants and needs of a population. The possibilities are endless. Therefore, it is important to have effective organizational processes in place that allow a business to adapt and evolve as circumstances do. Moreover, businesses must have a competent and flexible leader who can absorb data obtained from trends, societal factors, and research to guide their decision-making. Creating a philosophy to deal with the status quo, as well as having the "muscles" well-trained in case there is a need to shift or innovate suddenly. Solid reasoning in governance of the enterprise equals logical problem-solving.

For instance, a person owning a transportation company such as a taxi, group transportation, or limousine coaching platform in the Bay State would benefit from understanding the stats of the Transportation Network Companies. TNCs such as Uber and Lyft provided 64.8 million rides in 2017, 81.3 million in 2018, 91.1 million in 2019, 35 million in 2020, and 39.7 million in 2021 (according to a Rideshare Data Report from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities). The industry declined dramatically in 2020 due to pandemic-related factors. Uber, a publicly traded company, reported income from operations of $172 million for the first quarter of 2024. Lyft reported $1.3 billion in revenue.

They could also benefit from understanding how the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) operates, another option for people seeking to commute from one place to another. The State Auditor's office published a report on July 7, 2024, which found that the MBTA did not ensure that Block by Block employees were trained on operations and safety before being assigned to subway station locations. BBB is the company to which the position of customer service ambassadors was outsourced to, serving as the point of contact for most riders with the public agency. Access to the aforementioned facts will give a business owner in the transportation field a more panoramic view of what is happening and a better reference to operate their business in the context of the patron.

Anthony Viola, who currently serves as a Business Innovations Librarian in the Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center at the Boston Public Library believes that "The best habit for all leaders to practice, not just business leaders, is to do their own research culled from reputable, fact-checked sources. Between the rapid rise of AI-generated content and the ever-growing cry of "false news" being thrown at dissenting arguments and facts, it's too easy to get confused and make bad decisions. Choices made by leaders for both business and personal growth must be based on true, hard facts."

More important than having access to information is applying it. As Phillip E. Auerswald discusses in his book The Coming Prosperity, "The real risk to the future is the understandable tendency to react to adversity by hanging on to the past rather than seizing the opportunities that the underlying causes of adversity create." As a result, a commercial leader must find ways to remain informed and understanding reality, if they want to

LEADERSHIP: PAGE 23

Dean Chongris and the staff at Patrick's North Shore Eatery in North Andover delivered food to the North Andover Fire Department to thank them for their service and sacrifices for others in their time of need.

Marilyn Salcedo of Lawrence was finally sworn in as a U.S. Citizen last month after years of hard work and studying. Marilyn works at Enterprise Bank! Stop in to the Lawrence branch and congratulate her!

F.H.Cann Associates participated in a scholarship ceremony organized by the Exchange Club of Lawrence and the Andovers to support deserving students from Lawrence High School. Leslie Perez was the recipient of the Frank H. Cann Scholarship, honoring his legacy and philosophy of helping those in need, and his belief that "together anything is possible." Frank passed one year ago last month. We at The Valley Patriot truly miss him.

Haverhill's Chloe Aide (with her dad Lance) turned 24 last month! As miraculous as that is, Katie (her mom) and Lance are so amazed and proud of what a fine young woman she has become! Defying odds everyday, she is an inspiration to everyone here at The Valley Patriot!

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FRANCISCO PAULINO

Windham / Family Office Review

Columnist Introduction: Joel Desilets

I am excited to host this column serving Windham and neighboring communities. I serve as the President of a Family Office called Damascus Partners, located in Windham New Hampshire, and Partner of the Private Equity firm Broadstreet. We are specialized in real estate development across a diversity of asset classes including land banking, entitlement, infrastructure development, single family housing, storage, resort and hospitality projects.

As a Family Office, we bring together various disciplines which complement each other to best serve individuals, families and businesses. These typically include investment, real estate, insurance, tax, legal, private equity, retirement, estate, healthcare, philanthropy, risk management, family governance and enterprise, banking and finance. These areas don't just impact the wealthy, they impact every one of us at one time or another and we believe you deserve the utmost care to ensure the needed counsel collaborates on your behalf.

And so that is the purpose of the Family Office Review. Please feel welcome and encouraged to write in with your questions and unique situations that you feel could benefit from a multi-disciplinary review and discussion. Each month, I'll pull together insights from local experts in response. When published, no names or other identifying details will be shared in order to uphold full privacy and the utmost discretion.

Each month we'll cover two areas. First, we'll cover the multi-disciplinary review of the question or situation received from the readership. Second, we'll share a series deep diving into a topic that we feel will benefit all readers.

Series 1: Credit Control and Security

Your credit impacts much more than the interest rate you qualify for on a home mortgage, vehicle loan, or credit card. Credit impacts job applications at all career levels, insurance costs, rental applications, and many other unsuspecting areas. There is strong debate over whether or not credit should be allowed to impact some of these areas, but the reality is that it does and will most likely continue to for the foreseeable future.

To be sure, many people today take great pride in their credit score. This is generally healthy, but not when obsessed over for the sake of perfection. Many people get off track at some point in their lives due to medical bills, student loans, divorce, death, unemployment, etc.

But what should not hurt you in regard to your credit is a lack of information or inaccuracy. This is easily within our ability to manage and makes a great first step towards taking control.

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And so, the sole focus of this Series is on taking control of your credit. I encourage you to gather your information and review it today. Then plan to update your information on an annual basis going forward.

This is especially timely due to the major data breach that just occurred this year at National Public Data, where it has been reported that nearly a third of the world, including everyone in America, may have had their Social Security Numbers and other sensitive information exposed.

Credit monitoring services are offered by many different companies as well as by the three credit bureaus: TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian. While we wouldn't advise against any particular monitoring service, they are often relatively expensive, and it is important to know that you can achieve even higher levels of security for no cost by freezing your credit at each bureau. Some credit cards may also offer free monitoring as a member benefit.

Keep in mind as you're gathering your free credit reports from each of the three agencies, that monitoring services are a major money-maker for them and the websites will be a little confusing. Just be careful where you click, have patience, and remember that you absolutely do not need to pay anything to download and print your three credit reports. They will also try to sell you your scores - resist the urge. There are many ways to obtain these for free and we are just working to obtain the reports for now.

Go to https://www.annualcreditreport.com. Look out for others masquerading to take advantage (freecreditreport.com, consumerinfo.com, etc. Reference, https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2005/08/marketer-free-credit-reports-settles-ftc-charges-0)

Select "Request your free credit reports": TransUnion, Equifax, Experian

Save each of your three reports as PDFs. Print each one, and review for accuracy. Instead of reviewing as you go, instead focus on downloading and filing/printing each one for your records. Plenty of time to review later without websites timing out.

The site will walk you through all three, one by one. It may be difficult to locate the Print or Save my Report options because they all want to sell monitoring and other services. Resist the urge the sign up for any of the services as they are of little value beyond curiosity. Select "Get your next report or finish" and go back to the credit report website. You can then move on to the next report. It will feel like a back and forth process so don't be confused.

Upon review, there may be an item or items that could be disputed to make your reports as accurate as possible. However, you'll need to decide if the juice is worth the squeeze especially for inaccuracies over five years old. In many cases, it may be best to leave well enough alone but at least be aware.

For free monitoring throughout the year, sign up at creditkarma.com where they also provide score estimates from two of the credit bureaus.

There are other options, but these have worked well for us for many years. For those that want the utmost protection, you should freeze your credit at each agency and remember this is always completely free.

There will be a process to unfreeze your credit before the next time you take out a loan and so you should consider this as you make your decision, especially if you frequently utilize new personal or business credit.

For many folks 60+ who usually don't take out new loans often, especially in light of major data breaches, it is highly advisable to freeze your credit.

And that's it! In well under an hour, you can take control of your credit. Moving forward, it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes a year to file away the updated reports and stay on top of everything.

Stay alert: Be extra cautious about emails, text messages, and phone calls you receive in the coming months. Scammers can use personal details like those in the NPD breach to craft more believable scams. Never transfer money under any circumstances.

Joel Desilets has expertise in investing, real estate, private equity, tax-advantaged strategies surrounding business transitions, 1031 exchanges and long-term capital preservation. Desilets is a former State Representative and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for Windham. Through the Desilets Philanthropies Fund, he is committed to supporting charitable causes locally including medical relief, veteran support, animal welfare and community enrichment. ◊

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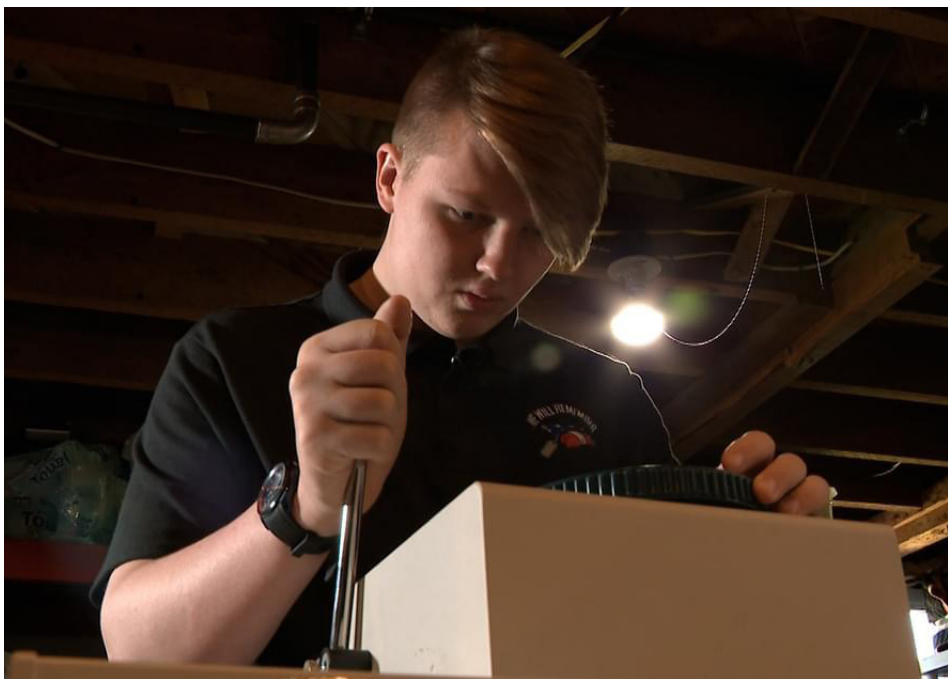
Meet Connor Nicol, Founder of We Will Remember Memorial Dog Tag Project

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT/COLUMNIST

KANE'S KORNER

We Will Remember Memorial Dog Tag Project, a 501C3 organization founded in 2020 by now 16-year-old Connor Nicol, shines a light on the sacrifices made by fallen military members who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our freedom. Connor clearly stated, "each individual is important, their memory and name must never be forgotten.'' Like Connor, Kane is from a military family and felt very humbled listening to Connor speak, he really gets it, he understands the importance of keeping the memory of our fallen military alive.

So exactly who is Connor Nicol and how did he, at such a young age, take on this important project? Well Kane learned that Connor became an Eagle Scout at the age of 14, currently he serves as the senior patrol leader of his Troop. Connor is the son of a Navy and Active Duty Marine Officer and knows he will follow in the family military tradition of serving his country. Connor plans on attending college while participating in the ROTC program. As a sophomore in high school Connor participates in Cross-Country, swim team, and is considering Spring track. Connor explained to Kane that serving in the military has been part of the family tradition since the Revolutionary War and he is hopeful that his message in his talks spreads an enthusiasm for patriotism.



Kane asked Connor what inspired him to start "We Will Remember." Connor stated that watching the realistic movie "Saving Private Ryan" had a strong impact on him. The movie inspired conversations with his parents on the age of the soldiers that were killed during the war. Connor explained to Kane that the military members that died did not look much older than him. It struck Connor that the young people would never come home to finish growing up, get married, or have a family. Connor said," I wanted to do something to make sure that they were remembered so I saved up money for a few years to start the "We Will Remember Project."

Now here is the important part, Connor explained although the Dogs Tags are free, the name on the tag represents a real person. It is the recipient's responsibility to keep this person's name and memory alive. This ultimately means you are adopting the service member's individual life and memory. Please display the person's name, think about them, pray for them, and their family. Keep their memory alive. Connor explained to Kane that he hopes the Dog Tags spread awareness of the sacrifice of the service members killed during the war so we will never forget. Besides providing dog tags for adoption, Connor has many speaking engagements to spread the word. A recent talk was in front of more than 10,000 attendees at the VFW National Convention. Kane was impressed. That is quite a large crowd that Kane was sure was inspired by Connor.

If you would like to donate to "We Will Remember," you may donate through Facebook or an option below. One way Kane made a donation was by Purchasing a hat.

facebook.com/wewillrememberdogtag
Square
https://square.link/u/OggDhjet
PayPal
https://paypal.me/wewillremember
Venmo
@wewillremember

Thank you Connor for all that you do. It was a pleasure to meet you, and We Will Remember all the individuals with gratitude who died in the service of our country. Each person is important.

Woof, Kane Peaslee
Columnist Valley Patriot ◊

What's Missing From the Gun Debate (and everything else) on Beacon Hill

Lenny Mirra
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

"Don't do it," my House colleagues said. "There's no way gun owners will sit down with gun control groups to discuss gun violence."

But I didn't listen, so, when anti-gun violence group Moms Demand Action demanded to speak with me, I asked if they'd be willing to discuss their concerns with gun owners. They were totally on board!

So, I formed a Gun Violence Working Group that met at different locations in my district, just to get a conversation going. This led to numerous meetings with MDA and from Gun Owners Action League along with fellow legislators, police chiefs, and anyone else interested in the issue.

It was helpful just to get the parties in the same room at the same time, if for nothing else than to see that the other side is not a bunch of monsters out to destroy the republic. But the group wasn't formed so that we could sit around and talk, we eventually started to work on actual solutions, so I did a little research and found two experts right in our backyard.

The first was Michael Siegel, Professor in Community Health Sciences at BU, who took a public health approach to finding ways to curb gun violence.

Siegel was able to boil it down to a simple premise: we need to focus on the who, not the what. Controlling who has access to guns has much more impact on reducing gun-related homicides than controlling what guns people have.

His latest study shows that laws designed to regulate who has firearms are more effective in reducing shootings than laws designed to control what types of guns are permitted. He looked at state gun regulations in comparison with FBI data about gun homicides, gathered from police departments around the country. It revealed that universal background checks, permit requirements, "may issue" laws, and laws banning people convicted of violent misdemeanors from possessing firearms are significantly able to reduce gun-related deaths.

The firearm homicide rate in states without background checks is 58% higher than in states with background-check laws in place. Conversely, laws regulating the sale of assault weapons are unlikely to have a large impact on homicide rates, because these weapons are used in only a very small proportion of homicides.

We also heard from Thomas Abt, Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy and Law School, who explained how we could reduce gun violence by 50% in the 40 most violent US cities.

He found that in most cities, about 4% of city blocks account for approximately 50% of crime. In Oakland, 60% of murders happen within a social network of approximately one to two thousand high-risk individuals – about 0.3% of the city's population. In New Orleans, a network of 600 to 700 people, less than 1% of the city's population, account for more than 50% of its lethal encounters.

This is the kind of research needed by lawmakers when drafting bills to address gun violence, or any kind of violence for that matter. And yet it was glaringly missing from the recent omnibus gun safety bill H.4885 put forth by Michael Day (D-Stoneham).

Like too much of what gets passed on Beacon Hill, this bill was pretty much drawn up in total secrecy, behind closed doors, and at over a hundred pages you can bet that few, if anyone voting for it, read it. This is shameful, and, sadly, it's par for the course in a one-party legislature that's completely bought and paid for by its leadership who created dozens of phony titles that come with huge raises, which are used to buy their unquestioning loyalty. ◊

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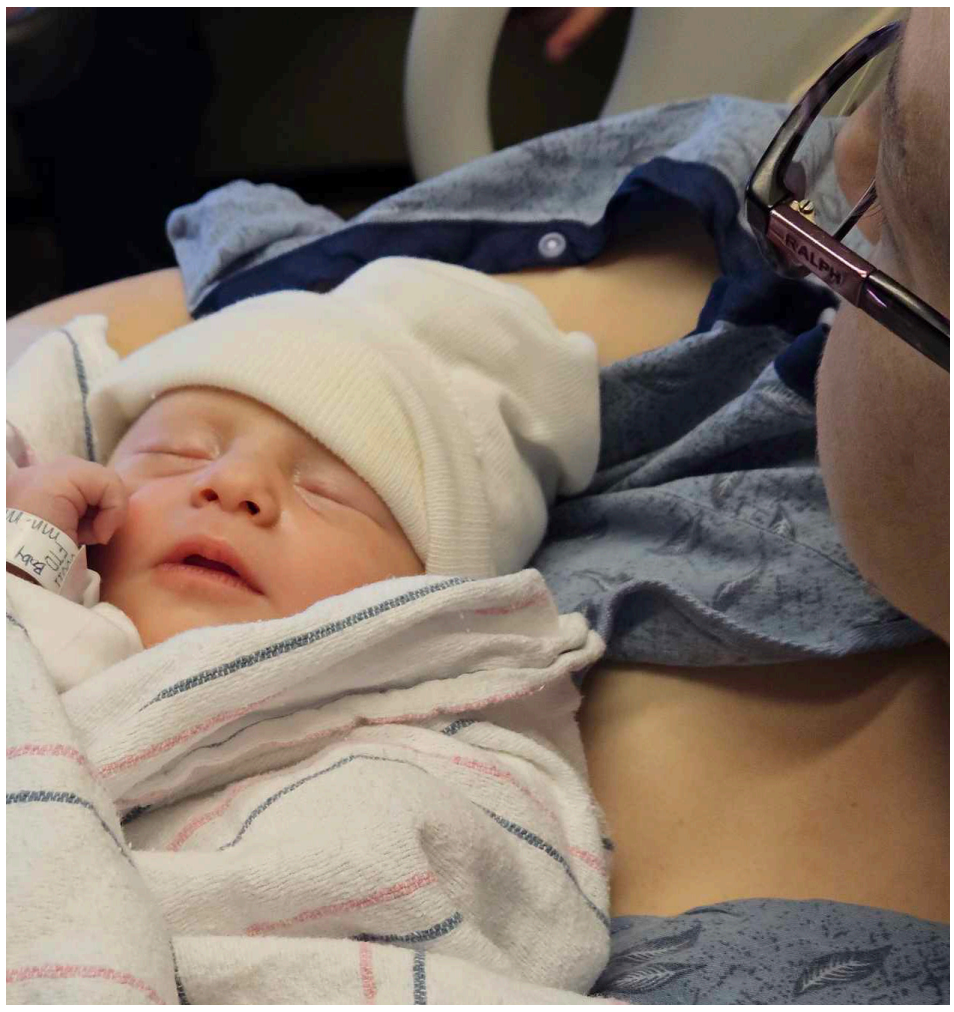
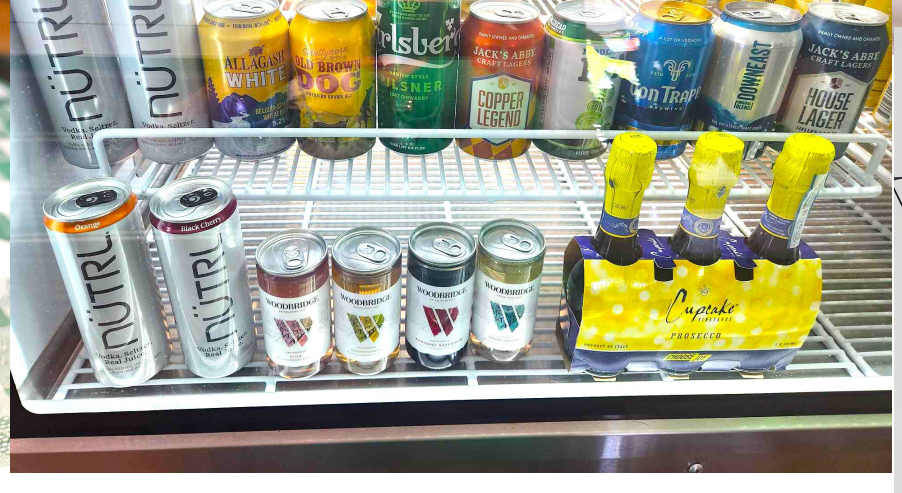
Brown's Lobster Pound won first place for their lobster rolls at the Hampton Beach Seafood Festival last week. Above is Rio Tilton.



Penelope Anne Mirra of Windham N.H. was born last month to Meaghan McDermott and Anthony Mirra. Penelope is the granddaughter of former state Rep Lenny Mirra



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Why the Governor's Council Matters, and Why You Should Vote for Anne Manning-Martin

Kevin Dube
CHAIR, NORTH ANDOVER GOP COMMITTEE

Have you ever heard of the Governor's Council?

If you have, do you know what it does? This obscure council consists of eight elected individuals from districts in the Commonwealth, plus the Lieutenant Governor, who serves as ex-officio, and they hold a great deal of power. The eight elected members of the Governor's Council are selected by the voters every two years. Currently every member of the Governor's Council is a Democrat.

While the Governor's Council serves many functions, their real power is in the selection of judges and members of the parole board, and overseeing pardons and commutations of sentences. With regard to pardons, the charter of the Governor's Council has overlap. Not only do they play a significant role in the selection of the members of the Parole Board, they also oversee the parole board's recommendations before they are presented to the Governor.

The real power of the Governor's Council is in the selection of judges. In the parlance of their charter, they advise and consent to the Gubernatorial appointment of judges. When we had a Republican Governor such as Charlie Baker, a left leaning Governor's Council, such as we have now, could make sure that he could not appoint any judge that didn't meet their left-wing criteria. On the other hand, a well-balanced Governor's Council could mitigate a far left-wing Governor, such as we have now, but only allowing her to appoint judges to the bench who would neutrally apply the law.

We have seen many real-world examples of activist judges putting ideology before the law and public safety. A while back Judge Feeley released a drug dealer back onto the streets because he was a legal immigrant, and if he had been convicted of felony drug dealing, he may have been deported.

In his decision he noted he had released the individual because he was NOT a drug addict. We can all agree that addicts need compassion, and many may turn to crime to support their habit. However, Judge Feeley thought the fact this man was NOT an addict, and rather was dealing death simply to enrich himself was deserving of special treatment.

More recently an illegal immigrant accused of forcibly raping a disabled child in one of Governor Healey's migrant shelters was released on a paltry $500 bail, and outright ignored an ICE detention request on this defendant. In another incident in Peabody just last month an illegal alien charged with aggravated rape and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on a pregnant victim was released on his own recognizance by a Massachusetts judge.

None of this would have happened if we had balance on the Governor's Council. If we had more people on that board more interested in preserving the rule of law, than promoting activist left-wing ideologues to the bench. The Democrat in the race believes we should bar local and state police from collaborating with Federal immigration agents, and prevent courts for inquiring of defendants' immigration status. Just more of the same that we already have.

The Republican in the race, Anne Manning-Martin has an extensive background in law enforcement, is endorsed by the New England Police Benevolent Association, the Massachusetts Coalition of Police, and former Governor Charlie Baker. I ask you all to join me in bringing balance to the Governor's Council and vote for the only candidate that wants to restore prudence to our judiciary and vote Anne Manning-Martin for Governor's Council! ◊

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‘Freedom’ to Vote Out the Harris Train Wreck

Kenneth Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

During the peace through strength and prosperity years of the Reagan Presidency, I often watched the ubiquitous videos that played non-stop on MTV—24 Hour Music Television. There was Culture Club, A Flock of Seagulls, George Michael and the glam rock bands.

The Buggles, which launched MTV with a song called Video Killed the Radio Star, amazed a generation that still remembered television channels ending all programs at midnight with the National Anthem.

Culture Club had a wildfire popular tune—Karma Chameleon—which rocketed to #1 on the charts and stayed there for six weeks in 1983. I learned early on to read the lyrics of songs to delve deeper into the sometimes subtle, yet often blatant messages composed by the singer or bands.

The lyrics in that song perfectly fit the Harris campaign. Just substitute the gender in the original version, visualize the absence of an agenda, watch the disjointed interview on CNN after almost 40 days of no media interaction, and embrace the constant flip-flopping of the Harris campaign to match the lyrics.

Part of the lyrics read: “I am a (wo) man without conviction. I am a (wo) man who doesn’t know. How to sell a contradiction.” In this tight presidential race, how do you successfully sell the zero-content and sugary ‘Hope and Joy’ imagery to the American voters while, at the same time, contrasting and distancing yourself from a very unpopular administration that still has your name on the White House website?

And speaking of websites, it has been over 40 days since Biden announced his extended vacation, and yet Harris has no official agenda-- as of Labor Day weekend-- on her very minimalist domain. Maybe they will surprise me before this column goes to print.

A Flock of Seagulls also had a visually engaging video back in the day, with a catchy song title-- I Ran. (So Far Away). That should be the theme song of the Harris campaign, which mimics the collective cry of DNC delegates chanting, “We Won’t Go Back!” If I had any association with the Biden-Harris economic train wreck, I would run far away too from the real Biden record and promote that convention hall battle cry.

According to a detailed report published by the House Committee on the Budget, 72% of the jobs Biden allegedly claims were created under his watch turned out to be bounce back jobs directly linked to the COVID shutdowns. According to a Yahoo! Finance article, a staggering 25% of the Biden jobs are new government jobs that will likely disappear at the conclusion of COVID stimulus funding, or during the first signs of the forthcoming recession.

Biden still has a lower Labor Participation Rate than under the Trump high watermark before COVID. Millions of Americans either retired early or gave up working entirely. And evidence points out that illegal aliens are working many of the remaining jobs available.

Biden-Harris foolishly squandered $7 trillion in new government spending, which most economists point directly as the cause of double-digit inflation. No wonder only 35% of Americans say our country is moving in the right direction, according to recent polling conducted by Rasmussen Reports.

What is even more disturbing is that 818,000 jobs never existed under very questionable calculations from the Biden brain trust. This is the biggest revision in 15 years. Manufacturing benchmarks, unfortunately, appear to be heading rapidly into negative territory.

And if Harris is not stealing Trump’s and JD Vance’s ideas on No Taxes on Tips and expanding the Trump tax child tax credits for working- and middle-class families, she is working opposite those interests by seeking to impose price controls. Picture that we are on the verge of a recession, and we have Harris seeking to control consumer prices in a Soviet-style central committee and imposing $5 trillion in new taxes. Talk about an arsonist bringing gasoline to an economic house fire.

But Harris doesn’t stop there. If she is elected as POTUS, she will double-down on a massive amnesty bill for the estimated 20 million illegals in this country, many of whom arrived through her open borders policy. Can you imagine the fiscal strain on an already overburdened Social Security system? According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform, illegals cost taxpayers at least $150 billion a year, with most of the burden at the state and local levels.

If you really think illegal immigration is a popular policy, just inform a Deep Blue Governor like Maura Healey that she is currently experiencing a 46% disapproval rating in a state that Biden easily trounced Trump by 33 points back in 2020. In fact, Healey is 22 points below Charlie Baker’s exit poll number. More on that in a future column, because economic forces in Massachusetts, like the national climate, highlight a proverbial canary in the coal mine occurring very soon.

Harris has changed her views on fracking, border security, the electric car mandate, Israel, the police, and Trump Era tax cuts. Instead of comparing ICE to KKK members in a Senate hearing, she wants to build the border wall. No more Defunding the Police and bailing out rioters. It is ‘Drill, Baby, Drill’ now in Pennsylvania. JD is now right on providing more financial assistance to families, whereby the Biden-Harris team wanted the Trump tax cuts to expire. Now we must protect Israel too rather than delay weapon shipments. Will she morph into full MAGA by October?

In closing, George Michael branched out from Wham! and pursued a very lucrative and creative solo career. George Michael’s hit song Freedom, which was released as a bridge between the 1980s and 1990s, is yet another word that has been added to the DNC soup of hope, joy and weird. The lyrics are very perceptive and readily transferable to Harris and her shallow values system. They read---:” All we have to do now is take these lies and make them true somehow.” Don’t Buy the Harris Mirage! ◊

Lawrence Public Schools Offer Meals at No Cost for Students

Lawrence Public Schools participates the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2024-2025. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Skills USA's: Natalie DeLano

Natalie DeLano is Secretary for Skills USA Massachusetts 2024-2025. She was previously State Historian for Skills USA Massachusetts for 2023-2024. Natalie is a senior at Whittier Tech in their Health Assisting Program. She received her Certified Nursing Assistant certification in February of 2024, and does her Co-Op at Baker Katz Nursing Home in Haverhill. Natalie was sworn into National Technical Honor Society in May of 2024. She plans on attending college to study Nursing. She is 17 years old and lives in Haverhill (Bradford).

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HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER MAURA CIARDELLO'S ATTENDANCE

It's one thing for elected officials to sit at meetings and do absolutely nothing for years at a time. It's quite another to not even show up. In the case of the Haverhill School Committee a quick look at the attendance records shows that Maura Ryan-Ciardiello has only attended three meetings all year and all three of those meetings she participated remotely. While I have supported Maura in the past, the people of Haverhill deserve to have school board members who actually show up and do their jobs. It's time for Maura to step aside so that someone else can do the job that she is obviously incapable or unwilling to do.

Maura Ryan-Ciardiello's attendance:
1/11/24 - Remote (late to meeting)
1/25/24 - Absent
2/08/24 - Remote
2/29/24 - Absent
3/07/24 - Absent
3/14/24 - Absent
3/21/24 - Absent
3/28/24 - Remote
4/11/24 - Remote
4/25/24 - Remote
5/02/24 - Absent
5/09/24 - Absent
5/23/24 - Absent
5/30/24 - Absent
6/13/24 - Absent
6/27/24 - Absent
7/02/04 - Absent
7/25/24 - Remote

REMEMBERING PHIL LAHEY

Former Methuen City Councilor Phil Lahey passed away recently and it was a big blow to the valley. Phil was an inspiration to all of us as he tried to use his family struggles with addiction to educate and benefit other families going through it. He made such a difference in so many people's lives that it broke my heart last month that we were not able to include him in the August Valley Patriot.

I remember when Phil first got elected to the City Council in Methuen and he refused to go along with what the corrupt insiders wanted. Everyone, including the corrupt daily paper, attacked him and called him crazy. I remember interviewing him right after that happened, and I remember him telling me "let them call me whatever they want, they're not going to pressure me to change my vote." If only more of our community "leaders" were more like Phil, we wouldn't have half the problems that we have.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Emmit from Patrick's North Shore Eatery in North Andover (formerly Harrison's Roast Beef) donated four trays of food to The Movement Family to feed the homeless in Lawrence last month.

REP. FRANCISCO PAULINO BEATS DEVERS; GETS REELECTED TO SECOND TERM

The rematch between incumbent State Rep. Francisco Paulino and former State Rep. Marcos Devers earlier this month saw Paulino with a decisive win (again) over Devers. Marcos fought hard and he fought fair as this race was one of the cleanest in local races in more than two decades. Both Paulino and Devers should be proud of how professional and above reproach each man ran their campaigns. Candidates in other races should see them as an example. The interesting part of this year's race, however, is the effect this race will have on the man whose name is not on the ballot, Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena. Two years ago, people said that Paulino won because he had the support of Mayor DePena. But this year DePena supported Devers and Paulino won without him. This makes Mayor DePena look weak going into next year's reelection and, if he has a formidable opponent with a good reputation, could be in danger of defeat.

RED FLAG LAWS ARE THE TOOLS OF DICTATORS

The whole premise of a red flag law is to try and prevent someone from committing a crime by punishing them before a crime has been committed. In free societies the government is only allowed to punish people after they commit a crime. In communist, fascist and dictatorial countries you have no rights, and the government punishes people who are likely to commit crimes. So, it's the height of hypocrisy to hear Democrat Party candidates talk about how they are saving democracy while also instituting red flag laws to confiscate someone's firearms when they have committed no crime.

If they get away with being able to take away a person's Second Amendment rights when they have committed no crime, what's to stop them from using red flag laws ttake away a person's First Amendment right of free speech? Or your right to vote? What about your right to trial by jury or your right against self-incrimination? Remember that throughout history those who have promised to save democracy are most often those who are secretly chipping away at it. This obsession Democrat officials have with confiscating guns is the real red flag. The red flag that is warning us that this is not the only right they are trying to take away.

CASE AND POINT HATE SPEECH IS PROTECTED SPEECH

Over the last few months Vice Presidential candidate Tim Walz has repeatedly echoed his running mate's position on the First Amendment saying, "misinformation and hate speech are not protected by the First Amendment." They are protected speech of course, there are dozens of court rulings on the issue but what Kamala and Walz are really saying is that they don't think "hate speech and misinformation" should be protected speech. And if they get elected, they will work very hard to take those free speech rights away. They don't believe you have the right to be wrong. But who determines what's wrong? Remember during COVID when people were being banned from Facebook and investigated by the government for saying the virus came from a lab in China? Under the Harris Walz plan you would already be in jail by the time we all learned that the virus DID come from a lab in China, just as those in Britain, China and other countries were.

So, the democrats are coming for our First Amendment rights "misinformation and hate speech" and they are coming for our Second Amendment rights (red flag laws) how long before they start coming for the rest of them.... all the

NEXT PAGE

WINSTON SAYS!

TRUTH: The MSPCA is a kill shelter even though they pretend they are not. The City of Lawrence gives them animals to kill! Call Your Councilor!

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The family of Lawrence Firefighter Michael Delaney showed up as a group last month at the Buckley Transportation Center, 200 Common Street in Lawrence. The Delaneys and Hallorans brought dinner for the homeless and were there to help serve the food as well during The Movement Family (TMF) weekly family dinner for the homeless. TMF provides food, clothing, toiletries and services to the homeless every Wednesday evening at 9pm.

NOTEBOOK CONTINUED

while they tout themselves as the only chance we have to "save democracy." Is that kind of like during Vietnam when we were told we had to burn down the village to save it? Because it seems to me the democrats are perfectly willing to burn down our democracy.

CANDIDATE'S FAMILIES SHOULD BE OFF LIMITS

I found it really repugnant over the last few years how the media would track down members of the Trump family who didn't like him to get them to bad mouth him to suit their own political agenda. It was even more repugnant when they did the same thing to my candidate RFK to make it look like "see even his own family doesn't support him." Families of political candidates should be off limits. So, I find it highly hypocritical that conservatives complained loudly about the use of Trump and RFK's family and then gleefully used the family of Vice-Presidential candidate Tim Walz whose entire immediate family is supporting Donald Trump. By playing just as dirty as the democrats, republicans have proven they have no moral high ground.

MARA DOLAN BUYS SEAT ON GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

Long time political hack Mara Dolan defeated 25-year incumbent Governor's Councilor Marilyn Petitto Devaney in her second attempt to defeat DeVaney. For a part time seat on the Governor's Council, Devaney raised only $3,500 for her campaign while Dolan raised and spent a staggering $71,213. Funny thing is, democrats are so stupid that Dolan's campaign platform consisted of one issue: abortion. This despite the fact that the Governor's Council has nothing to do with abortion rights.

ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

Directed by Matthew Buono, ACS invites singers in all voice parts to join us for in-person rehearsals as we prepare for our Winter 2025 concert. Open rehearsals will be held on Monday, September 16th and Monday, September 23rd from 7:20pm to 9:30pm at Christ Church, 33 Central Street, Andover.

METHUEN VILLAGE ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia isn't easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal experiences with others who completely understand what you're going through. You will also learn about proven strategies to help you better care for your family member. This month's theme is "Getting to Know You."

The next meeting is September 25th at 6pm at Methuen Village Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 4 Gleason Street, Methuen. Contact Director of Compass Programming Deborah Cabral at dcabral@methuenvillage.com or 978-685-2220 for more information and to get the virtual meeting link.

METHUEN SCHOLARHSIP FOUNDATION

The nonprofit Methuen Scholarship Foundation will hold its third Arthur Nicholson III Bocce Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Sons of Italy, 459 Merrimack St. Methuen, MA 01844

All of the money raised supports Methuen High School senior scholarships.

Entry fee is $40 per person and teams of four are being formed. The fee includes three games of Bocce, breakfast/coffee, Texas Roadhouse BBQ lunch, dessert, raffles and trophies. Get your sign-up sheet from our website: www.methuenscholarships.org . To register or for more information contact Lisa Simonian at 617-584-4099 or Lori Morris at 603-475-3907.

TAXPAYERS ARE FLEEING MASSACHUSETTS

The latest IRS Data shows Massachusetts is hemorrhaging taxpayers and their money at an alarming rate.

The Tax Foundation has released its latest report highlighting patterns of migration of people and wealth between states.

Using the latest data made available by the Internal Revenue Service, the Tax Foundation report finds that Massachusetts was the fourth worst state in the country for outmigration, with a net loss of 45,259 residents, 26,033 of which were tax filers, leading to an adjusted gross income (AGI) loss of over $3.9 billion dollars.

But hey, keep buying the propaganda that raising taxes on businesses and wage earners is good for the Massachusetts economy. ◊

Moo's Cruise Night Ends with a Couple of Special Dogs Visiting

By Maureen Rooseboom

More cars than usual were there this night because it was Labor Day. A motorcycle with a sidecar also pulled in. Sitting in the sidecar calm and looking cool with her goggles on was Davner, a Search Dog. Her mom, Lori Gordon, is certified with Davner in Human Remains Detection.

They are deployed with FEMA, a Massachusetts Task Force and an urban search and rescue. Lori is a veteran. She trains human medics in canine tactile field care with Davner, who is a Demo dog. Davner is an Australian Shepherd Duck Tolling Retriever Mix, a former shelter dog from Georgia. Lots of people came by to see Davner and take photos of her. Lori told a very inspiring story.

Another very important dog was also there as she is often. Rhea is the Comfort Dog for Salem NH Police. She's been with her dad, Brian Lawrence, Community Affairs Officer, for seven and a half years. She was trained to work with First Responders like Brian by the Hero Pups who have been setting up a table here at Moo's every week during the summer months. Laura Barker, the head of Hero Pups, trained them to help people feel at ease. A litter of seven pups, plus other donated pups, have been coming here to Moo's Cruise Nights every week to get socialized so they can be set up with veterans to be Service Dogs. Brian said, "We go everywhere we are needed in the community – schools, public events, senior centers, health centers and into the court to comfort crime victims." Rhea is well known and loved by all the Salem residents whose lives she's touched.

A third dog, Woody, just happened to be in the ice cream line with her mom, Judy Follo. She's a 7-year-old Mini Australian Shepherd. She was trained by Fortunate Canine out of Derry. Judy feels fortunate to have this sweet little shelter dog who amazes the onlookers with her obediently sitting and turning as she patiently stands in a very big line to get her ice cream.

This turned out to be an evening with very special canine guests. ◊

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FRANCISCO PAULINO

HOUSING: FROM PAGE 6

dense development, the Selectmen representative to the committee rejected the proposal.

She clearly stated that this was about the politics of zoning and not the advocation of good zoning. Most people know it as NIMBY (not in my back yard).

I would estimate that nearly one third of the housing in town is not compliant with the zoning. The creation of additional residential zones would have far reaching benefits. Dense residential areas could become denser. This could provide economic benefit to the existing homeowners as they would have additional options for their land by right rather than going hat in hand to the Town for variances and special permits. The success rates of those are low.

Planned areas that allow smaller lots by its nature provide the economics for affordable housing.

Of course, the buffet for affordable housing and right sized housing need to meet the appetite of what the general public wants. There isn't much sense in providing smaller plates when the diner intends to mound the first course of their meal. ◊

LEADERSHIP: FROM PAGE 9

be sustainable; applying such data to the enterprise administration. Let us remember examples like the retailer Sears, which was unable to keep up with trends and is a lost memory compared to Amazon.

Blockbuster, a movie rental franchise, which could not adjust to the online streaming services. Their failures serve as cautionary tales. Learning from their shortcomings and poor steering will provide valuable insight for better management and better leadership, especially in uncharted waters. It is advisable to strive for industry best practices by consulting with experts, researching established sources of information. Remaining flexible and coachable may mean ongoing success.

Tomi Michel is a Valley Patriot Business Columnist. He can be reached at tomi@michelpublicrelations.com. ◊

METHUEN FROM PAGE 2

Consoli told the city council last week:

"After exhausting all efforts, I'm here tonight seeking assistance to remedy this issue since February 2020. The only action we have received is from former Police Chief Solomon. After Mayor Perry set up a site visit with the chief in 2020 regarding all the tractor trailers parked on that street, the former chief put forth a resolution of no parking on the street after seeing how narrow the road was."

"Now, I don't know Joe Solomon. I don't know if he's a good guy or a bad guy, or whatever. But I do know as a professional, he was sent by the mayor, we had a concern, and I got results."

"I don't think anybody wanted to hear that (at the council meeting). I don't really care about all these personalities and everybody's feelings at this point, because I'm mad. What happened out there is wrong and I am tired of being the guy that gets stepped on."

"When Mayor Perry had that meeting, he made me the face of the meeting and this is why I am upset, because everybody in that industrial park is coming to me now saying 'the mayor's your buddy and nothing's happening. He put me in a tough spot ."

Consoli said that he had a meeting with two other businesses in the industrial park and they are all planning to attend the next city council meeting to expose how the city has dragged their feet for four years on this project.

"We are all going to show up in force," Consoli said.

He also detailed how the Perry administration was stalling public records requests and that he suspects 'something darker is going on here."

The next council meeting is Monday, September 16th. ◊

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Michael J & Yvonne H Ratner, Eric & Kandice Lai, $1,820,000, 5 Shadow Ln

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Jason M Hatch, $1,755,000, 18 Robert Dr Unit 7-1

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Kenneth & Darlene Coppins, $1,600,000, 22 Robert Dr Unit 7-3

Ali A & Sakina Tawawalla , Samuel L Kocsis & Christina C Chow, $1,550,000, 9 Deerfield Wy

Jason M Haskell Tr & Nonnie-Marie L Estella Tr & Jason M Haskell Revocable Trust, Karina & Mitchell Bosman, $1,500,000, 68 Elm St

Richard A & Mary E Nardella, Lucilia & Robert J Halliday Jr, $1,480,000, 31 Ivana Dr Unit 15-3

Maria E & John C Reilly Trs & Maria E Reilly Revocable Trust of 2022, Ryan & Rachel O'Lear, $1,450,000, 53 West Parish Dr

Randal W & Kathleen E Tustison, Robert Michael Cohen & Leah Danielle Cohen, $1,450,000, 4 Coderre Way

Zhongcong Xie & Yin Wu, Robert & Karen Giacomantonio, $1,432,500, 7 Apache Ave

Tao Wu & Lingxuan Han, Venkata Naga Krishnatej Varanasi & Sree Lakshmi Varanasi, $1,400,000, 8 Stoneybrook Cir

Daniel Druyor Gillette & Dawn Druyor Gillette, Lina Wang & Feng Zheng, $1,380,000, 19 Moraine St

Thomas G & Rachel Pantely, Wei Zong & Sheng Chang, $1,320,000, 19 Marie Dr

Eugene T O'Leary & Janet P Swartz, Eitan & Danielle J Check, $1,260,000, 22 Algonquin Ave

Murat Anamur Tr/Avni Murat Anamur Tr & Ayca Deniz Ozel Tr & 3 Cherokee Circle Realty Trust, Peggy & Kevin Vena, $1,250,000, 3 Cherokee Cir

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Lauren M Nentwich & Curtis W Wittman , Ryan & Michelle Majewski, $1,220,000, 12 Bayberry Ln

Anthony J Blandini Tr & Linda D Balandini Tr & Blandini Realty Trust, Michael J & Yvonne H Ratner, $1,210,000, 22 Brady Loop

DJA LLC, 103-105 Central Street LLC, $1,200,000, 109 Central St

Kevin C Soucy Tr & Michelle M Soucy Tr & Kevin C Soucy Revocable Trust & Michelle M Soucy Revocable Trust, Xuegui Liu & Baifen Dong, $1,052,000, 3 Belle Isle Way

Vincent J Benenati Tr & Octavia Benenati Tr & Benenati Family Trust, Satnam Singh & Harpreet Kaur, $1,050,000, 31 Noel Rd

Brian J Murray Jr Tr & Gale A Grasse-Murray Tr & Murray Family Realty Trust, Francis L Walker & Ciaran M McGuinness, $1,040,000, 9 Algonquin Ave

David M & Donna A Groden, Peter Ho & Anita Singh, $1,040,000, 305 South Main St

Nita T Pant & Binod K Roy, James R Tambone & Chelsey H Jenkins, $1,020,000, 10 Nutmeg Ln

Amy Gunther Gribbel & Michael Tantillo, Tommi Cathleen Gans & Cassie Rose Dauer, $1,015,000, 170 Summer St

Avelar Barreto De Lima, Ali A & Sakina Tawawalla, $1,005,000, 16 Hansom Rd

Patricia A Ham Tr & Ham Famimly Revocable Trust, Analytical Sciences Marketing Group LLC, $1,000,000, 92 Wildwood Rd

Maryann DiNatale Tr & Kris Hutchins Tr & Hutchins Family Revocable Trust, Lauren Boniakowski & Frederick James, $990,000, 3 Poplar Ter

Gina G & Nicholas J Ardagna Jr, Shawn McGoldrick & Ann Kelly, $989,900, 6 Talbot Rd

Michael P & Jennifer A Travalini , Will Robichaux Clark & Rose Goodwin, $950,000, 1 Bristol Ln

Barbara A Perry , Barbara A Perry & Elizabeth Perry & Matthew Perry & Louise Perry, $934,000, 81 Dascomb Rd

Heather S Beaver Tr/Heather Shaff Beaver Tr & John M Beaver Tr & Shaff Beaver Family Trust, Julio Rodriguez, $922,500, 9 York St

William Kevin Looney Est & William K Looney Jr, Steve & Linda Weeks, $860,000, 62 Poor St Unit 2

Leslieanne Foote Tr & Alfred R Constanza Irrevocable Trust, Amjadulla Khan & Hajira Meher Naaz, $840,199, 8 Fulton Rd

Caileen L & Joseph F Bernardi Jr , Robert Lankin & Emily Johnson, $830,000, 8 Highland Ave

German & Diana M Holguin/Diana M Lombana, Jennifer Tyson & Kyle Murray, $825,000, 401 River Rd

Michael A & Charlotte Bielecki, John & Gabrielle J Ribortone, $825,000, 51 Enmore St

James M Kelley, Cedric Boudoya & Elise Connell-Boudoya, $820,000, 184 High St

Kevin & Jennifer Shepard/Jennifer Quinlan , Griffen Charles & Mary Katherine Rose, $812,000, 8 High Plain Rd

Brian & Sandra Kindlan, Thomas G Kilgallen & Kristin P Olson, $791,000, 16 Cuba St

Anthony Grise, Gregory & Kristen M Gohr, $789,000, 183 Summer St

Alfred P & Amor M Arcifa/Astrid A Arcifa, John & Katherine Lloyd, $785,000, 39 Gould Rd

Neil E Onerheim & Judith Lee Nathanson, Dawn D Gillette Tr & Daniel D Gillette Tr & Dawn D Gillette Trust 2024, $725,000, 2 Stratford Rd

Gregory S Heslin & Molly Johanna Swanson, Elizabeth Lane Savage, $711,000, 31 Magnolia Ave

Michael O'Brien, Brian R & Renee L Poulter, $705,000, 10 Burnham Rd

Elinor J Flynn Est & Terrence P Flynn , John Abraham & Hannah Gadarowski, $700,000, 17 Beech Cir

Charolette Dwyer Est & John D Dwyer & Mary Elizabeth Dwyer , Emma Camilleri & Alexander Gorniak, $698,500, 87 High St

First Landing Investments LLC, NE Dream Homes LLC, $675,499, 37 Chestnut St

Sivakumar Sivanandam & Devi Sivanandan, Siva Chaitanya Chaduvula & Mythili Tummalapalli, $670,000, 18 Dale St Unit 5C

Ricardo Miranda Lamboglia & Sandra M Miranda Lamboglia, Opendoor Property LLC, $668,300, 86 Poor St

Michael J Bergeron Tr & Steele-Bergeron Family Trust-2021, Wenhao Yu & Dan Xu, $656,000, 18 Dale St Unit 10-B

Douglas C & April J Haskell, Mohamed Abdelhamid, $649,900, 452 South Main St

Bette Jean Kidwell Est/Bette J Kidwell Est & Jeffrey S Kidwell, Courtney Richards & Brian McCarthy, $645,000, 16 McKenney Cir

Delores J Zimmer, First Landing Investments LLC, $620,000, 87 Chestnut St

Sandya Arias, Chad W Ledbury, $515,000, 31 Topping Rd

Baba Phatan & Sabha Banu Tameem-Mohammed, Karan Sharma & Nidhi Notra, $485,000, 450B Brookside Dr Unit 450B

First Landing Investments LLC, Suzanne Sharkey, $460,000, 125 Haverhill St

Richard F Benson & Joseph J Benson, Anne P & Stephen F Gross, $425,000, 102 Main St Unit T

Peter Christian Reeve, Stephen C & Pamela D A Reeve, $405,000, 349 South Main St

Yosmary Ortiz, First Landing Investments LLC, $385,787, 125 Haverhill St

Minh B Pham Tr & MBP Realty Trust, Rebecca J Cheever, $349,900, 70B Washington Park Dr Unit 7

Alia Alkhalidi & Noor Al Saer, Muhammet Cosan, $345,000, 11 Crescent Dr Unit 10

Stephen F & Anne P Gross, Mary Elle O'Rourke, $325,000, 100 Main St Unit 1

First Landing Investments LLC, US Home Investment LLC, $265,491, 16 Balmoral St Unit 210

Shirley Stratton Est & Alexander D Schuck, First Landing Investments LLC, $246,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 210

LAWRENCE

George Abdinoor Tr & Elaine T Leavitt Tr & John Abdinoor Tr & Albrite Realty Trust, 223 Winthrop Ave Holdings LLC, $1,200,000, 223 Winthrop Ave

Nunez LLC, Enviro Staffing Solutions Corp, $1,026,000, 180 Jackson St

Lesly Y Perez, Naomi Memeus, $960,000, 66 Bailey St

Nunez LLC, AYJ Common St LLC, $900,000, 222 Valley St

Sergia Rosa, Wendel Paulino Pichardo & Elvinn Ramirez Gabin, $850,000, 196 Boxford St

Aileen Castillo & Hermes Josue Castillo, Juan Williams & Yamilka Salce Reyes & Eddy Salce, $835,000, 11-13 Wesley St

Connie Phothisenh, Byron Garcia-DeLeon, $782,750, 90-92 Haverhill St

Juanico Richiez & Maria E Reyes/Maria E Lopez, Andre Willis & Belgica Richiez, $770,000, 263-265 Water St

Alan G & Xiomara Prescott, Vidal & Juan Henriquez, $769,900, 8-10 Allyn Ter

Rafael DiFo Jr & Alaina Yanilda Fermin De Difo, Danilo A Feliz Santana & Lidabel A Severino Garcia, $761,000, 23-25 Coolidge St

Ronald J MacDonald Jr & Thomas A Carpi, Junior Rodriguez & Cristal A Jerez De Rodriguez, $740,000, 129-131 Saratoga St

Godoy LLC, Lizmery Hernandez Lantigua & Luis Taveras Herrera & Ramon Hernandez Jorge, $735,000, 27 Kendall St

Labelle Maison LLC, Rafael Lopez Portorreal & Joelina Lopez Herrera & Jordalina Lopez Herrera, $720,000, 20-22 Holly St

Christopher R & Genevieve M Sedensky, Lia & Charles Cheffro Sr & Charles Cheffro Jr , $690,000, 9 Ridgewood Cir

R Bruce & Carmelita Westaway, Noelia Fernandez & Carmen Vasquez De Amezquita, $680,000, 556 Andover St

Alicia Lugo, Solangie Scarlett Tavarez & Jaythian Luis Lopez, $660,000, 54 Centre St

Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, Jose Antonio Borbon Diaz & Wilson Emilio Gomez Castillo, $630,000, 38-40 Doyle St

Milad N & Amal Francis, Alexis Luciano, $580,000, 28 Norris St

Daphnee Martineau-Paul & Jean W Paul & Jayson W Paul, Belgris Martinez & Zachary Lizardo, $575,000, 6 Marc Ln

Stephen Palino & Paul H Palino/Paul H Emery, Federliza Rosario Burgos & Willy Galvez Melo, $575,000, 16 Grant Rd

William A & Elizabeth A Borrelli/Elizabeth A Richards, Estefany & Esperanza A Santiago, $570,000, 187 Emmett St

James N Doiron Tr & Marie R Doiron Revocable Trust of March 3 2022, Epifania Gabin Santos, $560,000, 10 Monroe St

Kiu Real Estate Holdings LLC, 222-224 Broadway LLC, $550,000, 222-224 Broadway

Donna M Kattar, Alaina Y Fermin De Difo & Rafael Difo, $541,500, 37 South Bowdoin St

Enid Paulino, Filiberto Jimenez Carrillo & Berta I Felipe Perez, $500,000, 7 Pearl Ave

Spencer D & Stephanie P Buchholz, Maryka D Lier & Nicholas A Vandenberg, $500,000, 5 Yale Ter

Jennifer & William C Anaskevich II, Thear Kong & Han Huoth, $475,000, 151 Bowdoin St

William Anthony Stundza Est & Jonas A Stundzia, Orlando & Nilka T Herasme, $470,000, 64 Avon St

Daniel Charles Turrisi Tr & Laura Turrisi Bennet Tr/Laura Turrisi Llewellyn Tr & 140 East Haverhill Street Realty Trust, Raisy M Molina & Perla L Perez Molina, $469,000, 140 East Haverhill St Unit 3

Margaret Borrelli & William A Borrelli Jr & Elizabeth Borrelli, Virgilio Garcia & Venecia Camacho, $455,500, 189 Emmett St

M Claire Lamond Est/Marie Claire Lamond Est & Claire Lamond Est & Roy F Gelineau Jr, Bachir Lib LLC, $455,000, 62 Jefferson St

James E Doherty III Est & Michael Dickson, Empire Investments LLC, $455,000, 155 Woodland St

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REAL ESTATE: From 24

Francheska Taveras, Cindy Ubrit Gonzalez & Jose G Ubrit Guerrero, $441,760, 19 Webster Ct

Sylvia Pena & Ligie M Melendez, Luisa M Delossantos/Luisa M De Los Santos, $405,000, 121 Cross St

Michelle Silverio & Hanniel Victorino-Mejia, Aurora J Holguin Bencosme & Franklin Erubey Lopez, $392,000, 3 Woodland St Unit 11

Prime Real Estate Investment LLC, Norma Altagracia Gabin, $389,000, 122 Byron Ave

Socrates H Mancebo Perez, Christian Fernando Cano Molina & Bertha L Valladares, $315,000, 99 Beacon Ave Unit 8

Wayne E Johnson Est & Hope Peguero, Bachir Lib LLC, $300,000, 26 Margin St

Victor Manuel DeLeon Sr Tr & Dora Estela DeLeon Tr & DeLeon Family Trust, 3JO Property Management Inc, $280,000, 36-38 Holly St

Jeffrey Martinez De La Cruz , Francheska Taveras, $265,000, 92 Beacon St Unit 6

Charlene L Valladares Est & Joan A St Cyr, Javier A Estrella, $265,000, 350 Lawrence St Unit B

Danny E Azzi, Denny Lopez, $260,000, 264 E Haverhill St Unit 10

Karla Shanel Frias Garcia, Kelly Febbi, $251,000, 312 Water St Unit 7

Raymond J & Brenda Fay, Raymond J & Tyler Fay, $238,500, 46 Eaton St

Esmirna Encarnacion, Valdez Enterprises LLC, $185,000, 71 Cross St

Francisco Ovalles Tr & 6A & 6B Lincoln Ct Revocable Trust, Firpo Properties LLC, $100,000, 6A Lincoln Ct Unit C

Francisco Ovalles Tr & 6A & 6B Lincoln Ct Revocable Trust , Firpo Properties LLC, $100,000, 6B Lincoln Ct Unit D

Patricia M Lacourse, Central Mass Insulation Group LLC, $75,000, 375 Mt Vernon St

METHUEN

Gail R & Raymond T Morlock Trs & RGNVM Revocable Trust, Thomas & Jill O'Shaughnessy , $990,000, 57 Greenside Way

Jacqueline & Jorge Oleaga , Jennifer Suriel & Florencia Diaz DeSuriel & Anita Perfecta Vasquez Vargas, $860,000, 21-23 Olive St

251 Broadway LLC, Methuen 326 Merrimack LLC, $800,000, 251 Broadway

James M & Paula S Bolton Trs & Bolton Family Trust, Psychologocal Center Inc, $790,000, 221 Hampshire St

Herbert F Mann Jr & Cindy M McAllister, Dean Privitera & Natalie Weber, $780,000, 36 Bumpy Ln

Sheila M & Peter J Weshonko, Darleny B Melo & Sammy Rosario, $760,000, 7 Budron Rd

Rkaco LLC, Eleni G Temeche & Nadab Wubshet, $750,000, 60 Thornton Ave

Valleynorth Property Management Services LLC, Maria Venecia Rocha & Maria Dolores Romano De Smith, $746,000, 6-8 Florence Rd

Julio Cesar Serafim, Jyotsna & Utpal Pandya, $745,000, 38 Butternut Ln

Kenneth R Dimmock Sr Tr & Jeffrey Street Realty Trust, North East Educational & Development Supports Center Inc, $740,000, 1 Jeffrey St

Frank R Greeley Jr, Yeremy & Marta Caraballo, $740,000, 90-92 Ashland Ave

Hard Work LLC, Bilbil & Dorentina Sinani, $730,000, 42-44 Adelaide Ave

Natasha Ahmed Tr & NSS Three Sisters Realty Trust, Julio Coiscou, $722,500, 1 Brown St

Lisa I Maher Tr & Mary Theresa Barczak Tr & Surianello Irrevocable Trust, David M & Donna A Groden , $720,000, 46 Sequoia Dr Unit 61

On & Pamela M Son, Danielle & Christopher Pacheco, $701,000, 3 Deana Rd

Melisa B Giles, Aneudy G Baez Colon & Juana M Baez Colon & Angel Alcantara Baez, $685,000, 16-18 Peaslee Ter

Josephine M Benigno Irrevocable Trust & Vivian Napoli Tr & Josephine M Benigno Est, Ronald Rodriguez & Ismaldy Lopez, $680,000, 19 Woekel Ter

Penny Hamel & Nancy Dowling, William Leavitt & Christopher Leavitt & Samantha Gerrior, $680,000, 3 Hill St

Karl & Julie B Richardson, Ony & Bethany Ramos, $668,000, 29 Longview Ter

Ronald Rodriguez & Ismaldy Lopez, Jeanne A & Joseph Forestal, $650,000, 11 Woekel Ter

Kyle F Leone, David Rigazio & Cristin Rossini, $637,500, 76 Pleasant St

Nicholas M & Alexa M Carrozza, Chelsie & Michael Stackhouse, $629,000, 2 Columbus Ave/2 Columbus St

Jo-Ann & Mattthew D Morley, Alexander Lazin & Valentina Isaeva, $625,000, 60 North St

Neil L & Christine M Schultz, Danieli Gonzalez, $625,000, 21 High St

Raul & Agata Rivera, Mini John & Sanil John & John Mathew Vellancheril, $612,500, 26 Cherry Hill Cir

Carol Socia, Michael C & Allyson E Cregg, $600,000, 3 Lorenzo Cir

Kaitlin Hallet, Love Sland Hector & Yonette Hector, $595,000, 10 Ponderosa Ave

C-Improvements LLC, Dhruv Patel & Gargi Bhadreshkumar Gajjar, $590,000, 136 Edgewood Ave Unit 136

Rene J & Jean V Lavoie, Michael & Kaysea D Baker, $590,000, 14 Jade St

Jose Vega & Diana Maldonado, Richardson Daniel Gonzalez Almonte & Estefania Del Carmen Garcia De Gonzalez, $585,000, 13 Cross Ave

Stuart Russell Shaffer Tr & Shaffer Revocable Living Trust, Jeimer Candelario, $580,000, 72 Riverdale St

Melissa B Hirsh, Connor Quinn & Amanda Marie Ciampa, $550,000, 27 Peaslee Ter

David M Santilli, Samantha & Christopher McKinnon, $550,000, 19 Lincoln St

Cole & Autumn Burton, Ryan R & Melissa K McDonald, $549,000, 44 Arnold St

Jorge M Murillo Sr & Jorge Murillo Jr , Nelsoir Nelson, $540,000, 22 Strathmore Rd

Michael A Kinsella Jr & Laureen McClusky & Michael A Kinsella, Zlatinka Blaber, $540,000, 12 Heather Dr Unit 12

Timothy J Donovan & William J Donovan Est, Renato A Munoz Garcia, $530,000, 30 Hobson St

Hany E Bandar, Chase Bragan & Suzanne Sicuranza, $515,000, 25 Golf Ave Unit 2

J P Realty LLC, PVDH Realty LLC, $490,000, 380 Merrimack St Unit 3-A, 3-E

David W Fitzgerald, Johnny Alvarado & Wanda I Rivera, $490,000, 93 Currier St

Santa N Camire & Michael J Camire, Mitchell Charles Puoplol & Elizabeth Ann Puopolo, $472,000, 24 Brandee Ln Unit 12

Patricia J Jennings, Opendoor Property J LLC, $460,300, 2 Weisner Pkwy

Anaa Realty LLC, Ybonis Property Group LLC, $460,000, 15 Pelham St

Margaret A Hill & Salvadore R Rivela & Kevin W Fluet & Elaine M Fluet, Jose A Ramirez, $450,000, 25 Davis Rd

UTICA Capital LLC, Gregory J Lee Tr & Archibald Avenue Realty Trust, $435,000, 31 Archibald St

Paul J Donohue & Kathleen McAvoy, 18-20 Broadway LLC, $432,000, 168 Lowell St

Ricardo Joaquin, Derrick & Kristen Gagnon, $430,000, 54 Railroad St

Rami Majed, Laurie Sue Kelley, $428,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 2-104

Deborah Ayers Est & Brenda Ayers Hajec, Daniel Traficante IV & Mary B Witham, $425,000, 45 Washington St Unit T95

Carine N Melhorn & Marthe Ngalula Beya & Alidor T Beya, Socrates H Mancebo Perez & Edgar Perez, $390,000, 92A Tenny St Unit 92A

Charles A Bernier Est & Charles W Bernier, Melvin Gomez, $385,000, 68 North St

Wilmington Savings Fund Society FSB Tr, Eunice M & Francis Mayi, $380,000, 7 Lavoie Ave

Ana C Valdez Martinez & Yamile Amparo, Gustavo Antonio Martinez/Gustavo Martinez, $375,000, 99 Arnold St Unit B

Dinorah De Leon, Dinoris Mercedes Perez De Leon, $370,000, 12 Glen Ave

Robert Hardy, Matthew James McKay & Lindsay Woods Simonelli, $357,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 15A

Christine L & James F Kennedy, Rafic Tony Saadi, $350,000, 40 Lowell St

Deborah L Wells, Roger Matar, $335,000, 25F Oak St Unit 19

Suzanne Gonzalez, Patricia Jean Katherine Jennings, $330,000, 46 Ashford St Unit 9

Norma Phaneuf Tr & Constance Mercier Family Trust, Stephen A & Andrea J Mercier, $266,666, 45 Washington St Unit B7

Yanis Ortiz Gondre, Gregorio Jaquez, $261,000, 40 Danbury Dr Unit 6

Susan A Fleischer-Zeek, Scott Fleischer & Carole Dehni, $225,000, 39 Gaston St Unit 39

Jowamar Co LLC, BLG Realty LLC, $210,000, 52 Osgood St

Felix J Gollucci, Joseph & Kimberly Spada, $175,000, 9 Cross Ave

Louise Y Solimine, Wilson Gonzalez Jr, $40,000, 0 Tobey Ave

Stephanie M Davis, Robert M Anderson, $30,000, 32 Laurel Ave

Mark M Caron, David A Roblero Velazquez & Maria L Perez-Echeverria, $5,000, Chippy Ln

NORTH ANDOVER

Richaed F Tokowicz Tr & Barbara J Tomkins Tr & Richard F Tokowicz & Barbara J Tomkins Living Trust, Victor Yu & Deanna Rae Boden-Yu, $1,700,000, 157 Lancaster Rd

Tiffany S & Paul G Zinter II, Edward M & Melonie P Gillis, $1,605,000, 299 Webster Woods Ln

Patrick J & Lisa Y Garvin, David White & Chelsea Harris, $1,325,000, 51 Nutmeg Ln

OBS Builders LLC, Yue Tang & Jin Wu, $1,310,000, 531 Boston St

Felicia A Kosman Tr & Felicia A Kosman Revocable Trust & Gene F Kosman Tr & Gene F Kosman Revocable Trust, Danielle Niro & Bryan Carmody, $1,250,000, 10 Great Lake Ln

Michael R & Kathleen A Fanning, Graham W & Paige C Cochrane, $1,215,000, 140 Colonial Ave

Linda G & Steven V Weeks, Megan R & Anthony J Petrola, $1,200,000, 148 Bridle Path

Opendoor Property J LLC, Shailesh Thapa, $1,200,000, 10 Jerad Pl

Jonathan P Yorke Tr & Dina R C Yorke Tr & Dina R C Yorke Revocable Trust & Jonathan P Yorke Revocable Trust, Anthony & Jennifer L Tarantino, $1,200,000, 68 Sutton Pl

Robert M Tomer Jr & Jessamine Restivo, Eric Hann & Jenna Kuhn, $1,100,000, 74 Blueberry Hill Ln

Nicole Yan Tin Haung & Wan Xi Ye, Zicheng Cai & Xinran Li, $888,000, 53 Mayflower Dr Unit 21

BVSS Realty LLC, 1019 Osgood Street LLC, $875,000, 1019 Osgood St Unit 1A

Beth A & Clinton A Coolidge Jr, Andre Coflan & Caitlin Moss Coflan, $875,000, 24 Salem St

Nancy G Salemme Tr & Nancy G Salemme Revocable Trust of March 3 2017, Avelar Barreto De Lima, $859,000, 50 Boxford St

Kerri & John M Hall, Erik Christopher Francis & Elizabeth Francis, $850,000, 1424 Salem St

Ashley L Lucibello, Laura J Pollard & Kenneth Jeffrey Pollard, $850,000, 216 Waverly Rd

Janice Sirois & Philip Todisco, Daniel L Crory & Katrina A Rae, $842,500, 138 Lacy St

Thomas Zappala Tr & DiMauro Realty Trust, Dru & Johana McInerney, $780,000, 36 Richardson Ave

Taira Mandy & Vanessa Gagnon, Shruti Mehta & Pranav Saxena, $710,000, 30 Mathews Way Unit 30

Karen J Maheu Tr & KJM Nominee Realty Trust, David J & Grace Gordon, $685,000, 53 Woodstock Rd

Erik Christopher Francis & Elizabeth Lee Francis/Elizabeth Lee Bovio, Jenny L & Ian R Lemmo, $685,000, 445 Johnson St

Christopher M Butler Tr & Butler Family Realty Trust, William E & Meghan H Costa, $635,000, 264 Johnson St

Mary Ellen Milne & Anne M Mega & Robyn E Gallup, Santa Camire & Michael Camire, $634,000, 237 Winter St

Riaz Ahamed & Shabeena Ammukunhi, Rohitkumar Patel, $600,000, 517 Waverly Rd Unit 1

Tara A Shannon/Tara Shannon Mickalide, Michael A Logan & Lauren Nicole-Kristen Logan, $600,000, 33 Parker St

Mary J Kenny, Samantha Coleman & Joseph Franco, $580,000, 15 Walnut Ave

Joseph P Beninato Tr & Beninato Irrevocable Family Trust, Joseph Beninato & Sharon Beninato, $575,000, 61 Lyman Rd

Mohamed Salah Abdelhamid & Hasna Tallaoui, John & Jaqueline Tisevich, $549,900, 234 Dale St

Bradley & Laura E Howell, Thomas & Jillian Nashawaty, $485,000, 43 Phillips Ct Unit B

Shanthi Rajasekaran & Lakshman Subramanian, Pollyana Silva Dosreis Barbosa, $379,900, 148 Main St Unit A-212

John Anthony Fortes, Tanya M Valadares, $290,000, 3 Walker Rd Unit 2

Matthew A Caffrey & Gaetano Leo Altovino & Dan & Leo Holdings LLC, 127 Waverley Re LLC, $230,000, 127 Waverly Rd

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

novel "Run Silent, Run Deep". based on his experiences aboard the USS Tirante and other World War II submarines. Endicott Peabody, a future governor of Massachusetts, was a lieutenant on the USS Tirante.

After the war ended, Captain Street left the USS Tirante to become the US Navy's technical advisor for the submarine documentary film "The Silent Service." Captain Street served post war, in several command positions, including Commanding Officer of the USS Requin SS-481, the USS Holder DDE-819, the USS Fremont (APA-44), commanded several Submarine squadrons, and taught at MIT, the US Navy War College, and ended his career as a NJROTC instructor at Woburn High School.

This Valley Patriot writer had the honor of meeting Captain Street at several civic functions in the late 1990s. Remarkably, despite all his individual honors, Captain Street was exceedingly proud of a unit award, the Presidential Unit Citation, which went to the entire crew of the USS Tirante for its overall combat record. Captain Street liked to say, "I really treasure that more than the Medal of Honor because every man was there with us." Captain George Street also wore a Submarine Combat Patrol Pin with service stars representing ten combat patrols against the Japanese during World War II.

Captain Street and his wife, Mary, lived in Andover from 1966 until his death in 2000. The couple have a son, George L. Street IV and a daughter, Kris, along with several grandchildren. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

George Street and our Greatest Generation were and are "heroes in our midst." If you have an opportunity to have a coffee with one of the less than 80,000 living World War II US Veterans, do so. Statisticians believe by 2036, there will be less than 300 of these heroes left in the United States. Currently, there are only sixty living Medal of Honor recipients in the United States. Below is from their web site.

From The Medal of Honor Society's web page.

Rank: Lieutenant Commander, later Captain George L. Street III

Conflict/Era: World War II

Unit/Command: U.S.S. Tirante SS 420

Military Service Branch: U.S. Navy

Medal of Honor Action Date: April 14, 1945

Medal of Honor Action Place: Quelpart Island harbor, Quelpart Island, Korea

Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Tirante during the first war patrol of that vessel against enemy Japanese surface forces in the harbor of Quelpart Island, off the coast of Korea on 14 April 1945. With the crew at surface battle stations, Comdr. (then Lt. Comdr.) Street approached the hostile anchorage from the south within 1,200 yards of the coast to complete a reconnoitering circuit of the island. Leaving the 10-fathom curve far behind, he penetrated the mined and shoal-obstructed waters of the restricted harbor despite numerous patroling vessels and in defiance of five shore-based radar stations and menacing aircraft. Prepared to fight it out on the surface if attacked, Comdr. Street went into action, sending two torpedoes with deadly accuracy into a large Japanese ammunition ship and exploding the target in a mountainous and blinding glare of white flames. With the Tirante instantly spotted by the enemy as she stood out plainly in the flare of light, he ordered the torpedo data computer set up while retiring and fired his last two torpedoes to disintegrate in quick succession the leading frigate and a similar flanking vessel. Clearing the gutted harbor at emergency full speed ahead, he slipped undetected along the shoreline, diving deep as a pursuing patrol dropped a pattern of depth charges at the point of submergence. His illustrious record of combat achievement during the first war patrol of the Tirante characterizes Comdr. Street as a daring and skillful leader and reflects the highest credit upon himself, his valiant command, and the U.S. Naval Service.

The Merrimack Valley American Legion Posts ask all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! The Valley Patriot staff ask Veterans of all eras, to go to the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion. The American Legion's mission is working with our Congress, our Nation's Veterans, and our community, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations and serving all Veterans and their families.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 28 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

SALISBURY: FROM PAGE 6

– 32 years ago!

We had our mama Mary Tomaselli who entertained the guests with her magic tricks, played the piano, and then our friend Jeffrey Hyatt who sang show tunes in our nostalgic family restaurant decorated with our grandparents' antiques.

The restaurant was magical with music, homemade authentic Italian/Sicilian specialties. So many people praised our mother's homemade cannoli shells, "Italian wedding soup", homemade manicotti, eggplant, roasted peppers, seafood, steaks, and Italian desserts from Italy and wines!

We were honored to have special guests Bishop Leo E. O'Neil of Manchester, NH and priests, Father Thomas Morgan, Hampton Playhouse actors, B-Street Bombers, Unico, Singles Beach Events "Sleepless on the Seacoast" where several met their mates, and so many families celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, and special events.

Then, without notice, on December 30, 1994 Tax Collector Sid Pike refused to give us our 1995 business licenses unless we paid $19,000 in two hours by 1PM that same day and closed us down on New Year's Eve at midnight!

We begged the Selectmen to give us our licenses to reopen; Chuck Takesian, Hattie Stoltzfus, Freeman Condon, Charlie Geary and Barbara Thomas voted no. Apparently they NEVER read the bylaw intended for businesses who refused or neglected to pay their taxes in the prior 12 months; this bylaw did NOT pertain to us - we had paid thousands during the prior twelve months!

Then James Pollard and the Liquor Commission cleverly misused the same bylaw that didn't apply to us.

With just one vote, these Town officials destroyed our business, livelihood, lives, and unemployed our staff.

Starting in 1995, the town admitted they misapplied thousands of our tax payments, overcharged us thousands in sewer user fees by not charging water usage, the $7.8 million sewer betterment the Town charged to us and over 1,000 beach property owners in April 1992 was 100% paid by government grants! (Read: "An $80 Million Lie: Sisters Discover Sewer Project 100% Paid with Grants").

The court cases began from 1995 through 2023. To win, the Town and their attorneys lied, they concealed evidence to every court fabricating the sewer assessment was imposed in 1992 to make us appear liable for the sewer betterment however, U.S. EPA proved the Town's vote was May 17, 1982, years before we bought the property. The Town won because the Town and their attorneys are protected by immunity! (Read: Valley Patriot "Should Attorneys Have Immunity When They Lie in Court?")

Tom Duggan summarized our struggle. (Read: "After 31 Years, Salisbury's Shenanigans Unraveled!")

It took us 31 years to get the Town's public records that prove that the Town lied to every court. They destroyed our Mangia A Café Restaurant, our livelihood, took our home and property and auctioned it for $775,000 over bills we never owed in the first place!

THE END OF AN ERA SINCE AROUND 1940

This location was Mackenzie's, Scalera's, Sunray Bakery, Raphaelo's, Ripples, and then Mangia A Café Restaurant.

The building is being demolished and new condos will be on the site.

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

Ripley

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Tom Ripley (Andrew Scott) is a con-man working cons in New York City in the 1960s, stealing checks mailed to doctor's offices while calling patients and telling them that their payment was never received and is now owed plus a collection fee. His attempts to cash some of his illicit earnings nearly leads to him being caught, but then he receives a potentially much more rewarding offer. The father of an old acquaintance of his, Dickie Greenleaf (Johnny Flynn), hires him to travel to Italy to track down his son and convince him to come home, sending Ripley abroad and in search of a new life he can call his own. That is the premise of the intriguing limited series 'Ripley,' my recommendation for this month.

Ripley then whisks off to Italy to Antrani, on the gorgeous Amalfi Coast, and contrives a way to meet Dickie and his girlfriend, Marge Sherwood (Dakota Fanning). Dickie and Marge greet Tom with apprehension that gives way to an uneasy friendship. Acting as if he's an old college friend, Tom quickly immerses himself into not only Dickie's luxurious lifestyle, but Dickie as a person as well. But, as Tom's obsession with his friend gets deeper, their relationship and lives quickly unravel into something more sinister.

Based on Patricia Highsmith's crime novel The Talented Mr. Ripley, it has already received two superb big-screen adaptations (1960's Purple Noon and 1999's The Talented Mr. Ripley). But this version stands on its own. 'Ripley' feels like you're watching a big budget cinematic film.

Andrew Scott delivers what may just be a career-best performance as Ripley. Embodying the role of a complex killer, Scott shows nuance and realism in his acting, grounding the character even in his most despicable acts. His version of Ripley is restrained, understated, and exceptionally human. The supporting cast is uniformly excellent, too. Dakota Fanning breathes life into Marge Sherwood, going toe-to-toe with Scott whenever they're on screen together. Maurizio Lombardi is compelling as Inspector Ravini, playing a gripping cat-and-mouse game with Ripley.

'Ripley' is filmed completely in black and white, giving a nostalgic classic Hollywood vibe. The look of this show really sells it, and it's all in the capable hands of writer, director, and creator Steven Zaillian. The Oscar-winning writer of 'Schindler's List' and showrunner for the HBO limited series 'The Night Of.'

'Ripley' is a slow burn. The series trusts us as viewers to pay attention. To listen, learn and absorb all the information it is feeding you. Take your time, enjoy the gorgeous camera work, haunting music, captivating acting and lose yourself in this riveting crime story that keeps you watching until the very last frame.

While the series has not yet been renewed for a second season, Zaillian says that they have purchased the rights for all of the Thomas Ripley novels and would like to explore the character further, so stay tuned.

'Ripley' is available to stream on Netflix.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

What is Love, (Jesus) Saying?

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings and God Bless each one of you in the powerful name of Jesus Christ!

Well, here we are with both Political Conventions over and the Labor Day holiday weekend in our rearview mirror, now the Elections of 2024, take center stage, especially in our 24-hour news cycles. In my humble opinion, turn them down, not off, I mean read or listen to the Headlines to be informed, but do not get bogged down with all the nastiness and finger pointing that will take you away from the main thing, Unconditional LOVE.

There is a section of scripture in the Bible that speaks of being Kind and Loving and at Peace with one another which is found in Romans 12:9-18, "Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.11 Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful. 13 When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.14 If people persecute you because you are a Christian, don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.15 When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't try to act important, but enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible." NLT.

As Christ followers we do not give honor to an elephant or a donkey! We give our Honor to the Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus Christ! We must remember that our God is Sovereign. It does not really matter who is in the White House because God can use whoever he or she may be to carry out His Will. Believe it or not, He does.

You and I get to vote in this great country of ours according to our conscience for the best POLICIES, not Party or Candidate, which allow us to live in PEACE with each other. According to Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? NKJV. According to Jamie Winship, author of Living Fearless, "Justice and Mercy are not separate or opposite and the way we fix this is by Humility and Sacrifice, Freedom begins on the inside."

Also, just because I said God is Sovereign, that does not mean everything that is happening is wonderful and without any suffering. I find myself many times frustrated and angry and sometimes even angry at God and I struggle with that! This is where faith and trust play a part in our Christian Walk, it takes a risk to believe that God knows what He is doing.

As Christ followers we live by a different standard, God's Word, and it says in Psalm 92:12-13, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God." NKJV. Notice this verse says that those planted in the House of the Lord, (not the White House), shall Flourish! God promises us that if we are planted in His House we will Flourish! To flourish means to be Healthy and Successful. Now, being Healthy and Successful does not happen overnight, it takes a process, as verse 13 speaks to being PLANTED in the House of the Lord and not just visiting!

When a seed is planted into the ground, it sacrifices itself and dies, and with proper soil, water, and sunlight, new life begins to grow and develops fruit! Each of us must be planted in the House of the Lord like the seed and sacrifice our own selfish ways, changing Lords from ourselves to Jesus.

Today, the House of the Lord is the local New Testament Church! This is God's Plan for feeding and growing His People so they can flourish! The food and nourishment He feeds us with is the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ! The Life and Death and Resurrection of the Son of God, The Lord Jesus Christ! This brings us to Romans 10:13-14, "For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" NLT.

All this takes place in and around the House of the Lord where we are to be planted so we can FLOURISH! If for some reason you find yourself not having a Local Church you call Home to flourish in, may I suggest where I go, Granite United Church! We are one Church with multiple locations, Salem, NH., Lawrence, MA., Haverhill, MA., and we have an I Campus online. You can find us at https://www.graniteunited.com/ We just opened a Brand-New Campus in Lawrence at Everett Mills, Entrance B, 15 Union Street, Sunday Service starts at 10:30 AM. Or, you can find many other good Bible Teaching Churches throughout the New England area.

Now, let's ask Jesus (LOVE) this question, "Is there any part of me, anything that I'm holding onto, anything filling my life that is preventing me from receiving all that you have for me?" Ask, listen for the response, and journal what Jesus tells you.

Much love, Peter Larocque
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